

WEEK 5

STAY IN THE ROOM

Chapters 8-9 | Together in His Presence + Stay Present Under Pressure

BIG IDEA

Biblical community is more than people gathering around each other. It is people gathering around Jesus. And the strength of that community is often revealed when relationships come under pressure.

We learn to seek God together, and we learn to stay present with one another when relationships become uncomfortable.

BEFORE GROUP

- [] Read Chapter 8: *Together in His Presence*
- [] Read Chapter 9: *Stay Present Under Pressure*
- [] Complete the Reflection Questions at the end of both chapters
- [] Review the Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 Discussion Guides in the back of the book

THIS WEEK, PAY ATTENTION TO...

How worship, prayer, serving, and learning become stronger when practiced together. Also notice your natural response when conflict, offense, misunderstanding, or relational pressure enters a relationship.

KEY TRUTH

Biblical community is not proven by the absence of conflict. It is revealed by the way we love one another through it.

READ TOGETHER

ACTS 2:42-47

Notice how much of the early church's spiritual life happened together: learning, fellowship, meals, prayer, generosity, worship, and mission.

MATTHEW 18:15-17

Read Jesus' instructions for handling offense slowly. Notice the movement toward the person rather than away from them.

WHAT STAYED WITH ME?

What stood out most from Chapters 8 and 9?

WHAT IS GOD SHOWING ME?

What did you recognize about the way you seek God with others or the way you respond when relationships become difficult?

FROM OUR CONVERSATION

Write down something someone shared that challenged, encouraged, or helped you.

A QUESTION I WANT TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT

REMEMBER

Staying present does not mean ignoring wisdom, safety, or healthy boundaries. Forgiveness does not automatically restore the same level of trust or access. Grace and wisdom can work together.

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE

PRESENCE WITH GOD + PRESENCE WITH PEOPLE

Practice both sides of community this week.

1. PRESENCE WITH GOD

Do something spiritual with another believer. Pray together. Worship together. Read Scripture together. Serve together. Do not only talk about being together. Practice being together in His presence.

2. PRESENCE WITH PEOPLE

Is there a healthy conversation you have been avoiding? Before talking about the person, pray. Ask God to examine your heart. When appropriate and safe, take a step toward the person involved. Go ready to listen, own your part, and seek truth rather than simply trying to win.

MY STEP THIS WEEK

The person or relationship I need to be intentional about:

The step I will take:

PRAY TOGETHER

Ask God for unity, courage, humility, wisdom, and the grace to remain present when relationships become uncomfortable.

WHAT CAN MY GROUP PRAY WITH ME ABOUT?

WHO CAN I PRAY FOR THIS WEEK?

BEFORE WEEK 6

Read Chapters 10-11: *The Reset: Restoring Relational Alignment + What Love Really Looks Like*.

Complete the Reflection Questions and review the corresponding Discussion Guides.

Staying in the room is important. But what happens when a relationship actually needs repair?

YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO DO THIS ALONE.