

INTRO

Last week, Rob kicked off a three-week sermon series on the tangible peace, presence, and power of Jesus. In this week's sermon, he focused on tangible presence.

What comes to mind for you when you hear the word presence? How have you experienced the tangible presence of Jesus in your own life?

IDEA 1

I'm defining tangible peace as Simply being there, listening attentively, showing empathy, and offering a caring and non-judgmental presence. Presence doesn't have to offer advice or attempt to fix a problem. A ministry of presence - is just that - being present - just showing up - and being there for someone.

What stands out to you about this definition of presence?

How does Jesus demonstrate tangible presence to the Samaritan women in John 4?

Why is it tempting for us to offer advice or fix the problem instead of providing a tangible presence to others?

Have you ever experienced someone being a tangible presence for you in a time of need? Could you describe your experience with your group?

IDEA 2

Here in John 4, we see a beautiful theology of mission: *His presence begins with humility, releases reciprocity, and ascribes dignity.*

How did Jesus approach the women at the well with humility? How can we do the same?

What do you believe is the significance of reciprocity in the story of John 4 and our city/context?

Could you describe the connection between ascribing dignity to the mission of the Kingdom? How can the church do this in practice?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Very seldom will a community be able to be a *tangible presence* to the outside world if it is not demonstrated first within its own community. Consider the rest of your time together as a time to be a *tangible presence* for each other.

This could look a variety of ways:

Sharing Prayer Requests

Allowing someone from the group to share their story

Splitting into twos to discuss ways you can fill a need for each other

Feel free not to be bound by this list. There are certainly more ways you can be a tangible presence for each other. Please allow yourself to receive from your peers as you also give.

PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

One of the applications Rob left us with last week was to “Let being a tangible Presence mess with your schedule.” Not just a wave or a nod - but allowing the Holy Spirit to present opportunities.

Some examples could look like:

Being front porch people;

Lingering at a water cooler;

Getting out of your office chair to converse with a coworker;

Listening to your neighbor's story;

As you go on with your week, pray for Holy Spirit to reveal some opportunities of how you can be a tangible presence this week to one person.