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“O my God, since thou art with me, and I must now, in obedience to thy commands, apply my mind to these outward things, I beseech thee to grant me the grace to continue in thy presence...”

[Brother Lawrence, “The Practice of the Presence of God”]

ENGAGE & CONNECT ||

Who do you know who changes the entire atmosphere of a room when they arrive?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||

Lord, please draw near to us. We know that You’re always here, but we want more of You than ever before.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE ||

“You have said, ‘Seek my face.’ My heart says to you, ‘Your face, Lord, do I seek.’”

[Psalm 27:8, ESV]

BIG IDEA ||

Presence is the point.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION ||

1. In the sermon, Matt challenged us to “[spend a day with God](#).” How are you thinking about or planning your intentional day with God? What is challenging you about it? Exciting you about it?

Have someone read aloud Psalm 27. We will be using the ESV as our primary version, but consider having someone else read it aloud again, possibly in a different translation to gain another perspective (i.e. CEB, the Message, Amplified).

2. What (or who) do you fear?
3. What are some of the things that David wants to do in God’s presence in verse 4?
4. What would you like to do in God’s presence?
5. How would someone seek God’s face?
6. David mentions an interesting worry in verse 9: “Cast me not off; forsake me not,” and pairs it with an experience of having been forsaken in his past. What have you experienced that you’re afraid will happen again with God?

7. David doesn't look forward to heaven in this particular passage, but to seeing God's goodness in the land of the living (verse 13). What goodness from the Lord are you waiting for that you hope to see in this life?
8. Has this past year been more about learning new things, unlearning old things, or overcoming something? What things were they?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE ||

Wait for the Lord; **be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) What do you need to do to create a space where you can just be with God? 2) How can we seek the face of God individually and as a group?

Step of Faith Ideas

1. Commit to seeking God as a way of life, being present with Him like never before.
2. As you read His word this week, ask Him questions about what seems odd or difficult in it.

PRAYER FOCUS ||

All my Days with God

It is better to spend one day in His courts than a thousand elsewhere.

- Entrust your needs to God's care
- Spend time with Him without an agenda
- Give Him what comes to mind throughout the day through constant prayer
- Close your time by reading this prayer together:
 - *"Lord, let us draw near to You as You have drawn near to us. Strengthen us and fill our hearts with courage so that we can endure the wait. Please come and dwell within us as we desire You more than we ever have before. Amen."*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE ||

- [The Practice of the Presence of God](#)
 - This short audiobook is the story of a monk whose life work was to spend all his time in the presence of God.