

THE VISITATION: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us... JOHN 1:14 TNIV

PRAYER PROJECT: Select someone read John 1:14 twice through pausing for 30 seconds of silence between the each reading. Have the rest of the group sit quietly and comfortably listening to the reading, taking in each word and allowing it to pour over them. Take 5-7 minutes and meditate on what was read.

DISCUSSION: When you think of Jesus dwelling with you in all aspects of your life, virtually tenting with you, how does that make you feel?

THE INFINITE BECAME FINITE, ETERNITY ENTERED TIME, THE INVISIBLE BECAME VISIBLE, AND THE CREATOR ENTERED CREATION

Dwelling "skenoō" means, "to live in a tent"

Jesus... gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being... PHILIPPIANS 2:7 NLT

1. JESUS GAVE UP HIS DIVINE PRIVILEGES TO DWELL WITH US

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which translated means, God with us. MATTHEW 1:23 NASB

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." REVELATION 21:1-3 TNIV

DISCUSSION: What privileges are you still holding onto and how are they a barrier to you having a more intimate relationship with Jesus?

2. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT DWELLING WITH GOD IS A BLESSING

Let me dwell in Your tent forever; Let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings.
PSALM 61:4 NASB

How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You... PSALM 65:4 NASB

IS JESUS DWELLING WITH ME IN MY...

personal life

friendships

marriage

professional life

church life

civic/community

JESUS WANTS TO DO LIFE WITH ME!

Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you... REVELATION 3:20 THE MESSAGE

DISCUSSION: Take a few minutes and ask the Lord to show you the way in which He is dwelling with you, in your life, and all throughout each day? Where are you consciously or unconsciously keeping Him out of your life? In what parts of your life do you still not want Him to be with you?

3. HOW DO I ALLOW JESUS TO DWELL IN MY DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?

- **MAKE TIME DAILY FOR LEARNING ABOUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVING**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... COLOSSIANS 3:16 NIV

- **LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY WHAT I AM LEARNING IN MY LIFE**

Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! JAMES 1:22
THE MESSAGE

People claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live.
See Titus 1:15

- **SURROUND MYSELF WITH PEOPLE WHO WILL ENCOURAGE ME TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS**

...bad company corrupts good character. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:33 NLT

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds...
HEBREWS 10:24 NASB

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. HEBREWS 10:25
NLT

SPIRITUAL EXERCISE: Break into groups of 3-4 people. Take some time to talk about ways in which you can get Jesus more active in your daily life (based upon the three bullet points above). Spend some time seeking God together through prayer and petition. Ask Him to show you ways in which you can work together to encourage one another to more fully dwell with Jesus.