

TALK IT OVER

God Moves Close

BOTTOM LINE

God moves close to those who move away.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Who was the most intimidating person you can remember from your childhood? Who is one of the most welcoming people in your life today?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- [Emmanuel, God is with us!](#) by Beth Moore (25 min.)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
Lamentations 3:25-26 NIV

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21 NIV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:9-10 NIV

“What God thinks of us is far more important than what others think of us.”

“A healthy fear or awe of God is not being scared of God but being disturbed at the thought of not being in His presence.”

“Our sacrifice often precedes God’s provision. Your hesitation may be the reason God seems distant.”

“We cannot be truly close to God until we understand our condition as sinners.”
– Quotes by Dave VanDonge

TALK IT OVER

Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. How do you experience His presence? How do you begin to notice distance from God? Reasons for feeling distant from God include fearing man more than God, impatience with God’s timing, not genuinely wanting to hear from God, slowness to follow His lead, not owning our condition as sinners, and wanting God to be FOR us more than WITH us. Discuss what each of those mean. Which reason for distance is most familiar to you? How do you battle the desire for someone else to think best of you when wanting to fear God? What helps you slow down to wait on God’s timing? What would make a person not want to hear what God says? Or to not follow His lead? The condition of sinners is the “Me First” perspective over “God First.” How does one move past that default setting? What’s the difference between God being FOR us and WITH us when He wants to be both? What is God saying to you this Christmas?

ACTION STEP

God has come close to me through Jesus. When I feel distance, I can draw as close as I want through trust and surrender. This Christmas I will focus on removing any obstacle to my awareness that Jesus is with me:
