

WITH GOD

Beyond the Rules,
Beneath the Formulas
...in His Presence



NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER
October 11, 2026

**THE LITTLE WORD THAT
CHANGES EVERYTHING**
Pastor David Larson | Turlock
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

And they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.' Matthew 1:23 (NLT)

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them." Revelation 21:3 (NLT)

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in his good time he will honor you. 1 Peter 5:6 (NLT)

Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir. Galatians 4:7 (NLT)

1. I'll name my _____ towards God.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

2. I'll bring my _____ to the _____.

Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. John 4:18 (NLT)

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9 (NLT)

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

3. I'll practice God's presence _____ ...starting _____.

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Psalm 23:4 (NLT)

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. James 4:8 (NLT)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

WITH GOD

Beyond the Rules,
Beneath the Formulas
...in His Presence



NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER
October 11, 2026

**THE LITTLE WORD THAT
CHANGES EVERYTHING**
Pastor David Larson | Turlock
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

And they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.' Matthew 1:23 (NLT)

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them." Revelation 21:3 (NLT)

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in his good time he will honor you. 1 Peter 5:6 (NLT)

Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir. Galatians 4:7 (NLT)

1. I'll name my POSTURE towards God.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

2. I'll bring my FEAR to the LIGHT.

Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. John 4:18 (NLT)

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9 (NLT)

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

3. I'll practice God's presence DAILY ...starting SMALL.

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Psalm 23:4 (NLT)

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. James 4:8 (NLT)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

WITH GOD

Beyond the Rules,
Beneath the Formulas
...in His Presence

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
October 11, 2026

CONNECT

What's something that still makes you "grip the handlebars"...like flying, public speaking, roller coasters, parallel parking or a spider in the room? What's one thing that used to scare you that doesn't anymore?

ENGAGE

What impacted you the most personally from the message?

GROW

1. Read Genesis 3:8, Matthew 1:23 and Revelation 21:3 together. The Bible begins, turns and ends with God with His people. How does seeing that big picture change how you think about what God desires from you?
2. Read Galatians 4:7. What's the difference between relating to God as a slave and relating to Him as His child and heir? What would change in an ordinary day if you really believed you were a son or daughter?
3. In the prodigal son story, the older brother says, "All these years I've slaved for you..." (Luke 15:29). Where do you hear a bit of that "employee" language in your own thoughts about God?
4. Read Psalm 139:23-24. David could pray "search me" because he trusted the One searching. Does that prayer feel safe or scary to you right now? What does your answer tell you about your current posture toward God?
5. Read Psalm 23:4 and James 4:8. What helps you feel that God is "close beside" you?

LEAD (YOURSELF)

The challenge this week is to spend five minutes with God without asking for anything, just talking to Him like a close friend sitting next to you. What do you expect will be hard about that? How can your small group encourage or check in with each other?