



God's Presence – (Konect Series)

Welcome (10 mins)

What has been your most obvious 'spiritual' encounter? How did you feel @ the time?

Worship (20 mins)

Play 'intimacy' (Matt Redman) or something ambient that will help people to relax.

Encourage people to imagine a conversation with God – what are you saying? What is God saying? What is the expression on his face? What does his voice sound like?

Word (40 mins)

Give everyone a copy of the 'Where is God?' diagram (@ end of plan). Ask people to place a tick in the circle where God is. After checking what people put, say that you could actually tick all the boxes. God is present in all these places and works in different ways in each one. At times his presence will be more obvious than at other times.

Look @ these bible-bits (choose 3):

Isaiah 6.1-7

Mark 4.39-41

Luke 5.5-10

Exodus 3.4-6

John 20.26-29

Revelation 1.12-18

How did these people feel when they sensed God turn up on the scene?

Although God wants us to recognise and love his presence, sometimes he seems far away. Why?

Get people into 2's and give them each an 'agony' letter – ask them what advice they would give:

1. Dear Agony Aunt, I used to be well close to God. I'd lead worship and stuff and be well amazed by how awesome his presence was. But now he seems a million miles away, my life is pants and all my mates who don't know Jesus are saying 'Where's your God now?' I dunno what to say to them. Is there any hope for a loser like me?



2. Dear Agony Aunt, I feel terribly guilty. I've really messed up big-time and I can't get it out of my head. I feel like there's this massive barrier between God and me. How can I stop feeling like this? How can I know it's sorted? Can I ever be a follower of Jesus again?
3. Dear Agony Aunt, I've always really tried hard to live by what the bible says and do what God says. Since I was a kid in fact. And life is alright, pretty cool. But there's this gap in my life, like something's missing. I do all the right stuff but it's not quite happening for me. How can I be sure I'm sorted about eternal life and all that?
4. Dear Agony Aunt, God is one big mystery to me! He keeps sending me problems! Has he got it in for me or something? I can't understand why he is putting me through so much naff stuff. How am I supposed to believe he is with me when life is falling apart at the edges?

After people have shared what advice they would give, reveal that each of these situations are actual problems from the bible. Get people to read the corresponding passages:

1. Psalm 42
2. Psalm 51
3. Mark 10.17-23
4. Hebrews 12.5-12

Witness (20 mins)

Discuss for a short while: how can we 'pray constantly' (1 Thessalonians 5.17)?!! Think of creative ways you can remind yourself that God is with you (wear a bracelet? Sticker on your watch? Set your watch alarm to go off each hour to remind you?)

Pray for each other for a fresh sense of God's presence.

Pray for your friends – that they will become aware of God at work in their lives, situations, conversations, friendships, dreams...

Where is God? diagram is on following page

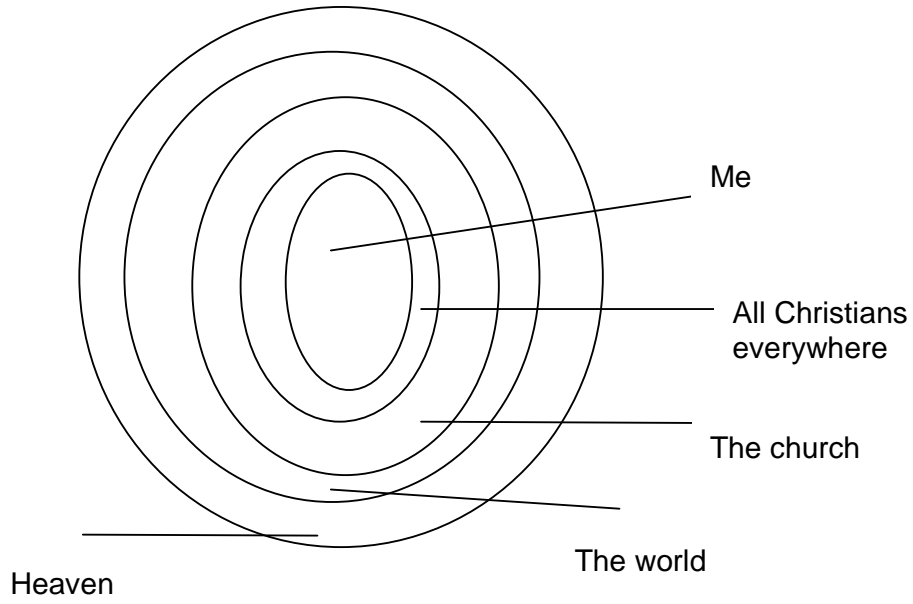
Notes

Prep: copy / print out the diagram below enough for one each

Aim: to help people be aware of God on a day2day basis; how God is at work in our lives.



Where is God?



Cell Plan