



If you missed Robs talk here it is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-INZCWCUUA>

Luke 2:41-52 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." ⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Questions

- What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
- What struggles do you have with spending time with God?

Rob said, "The most powerful choices we can make are to sit, listen and ask your Father about everything." If Jesus, as the Son of God, wanted and needed to spend time with the Father, how much more do we?

So, how do we be with Jesus?

- In John 1:39 Jesus says "Come," he replied, "and you will see."
- In John 14 and 15 Jesus gives us the invitation...

John 14:15-18 "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

John 14:25-27 "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Questions

- After reading these passages, how does the Bible tell us to be with Jesus?
- What does this practically look like for you?

Rob said that if you're not feeling awkward and out of place with God, we probably don't know who we're talking to. Your vocabulary should be insufficient or inadequate for our Holy God, but do not despair. The Bible is full of earthy and rough people experiencing a Holy God.

Questions

- Do ever feel awkward, out of place, or even insignificant when talking to God, or does that even stop you talking to God?
- How can you take comfort knowing that it is ok to feel like this when approaching the creator of the universe?

Rob mentioned the Jewish daily practice called the Shema, which is often recited at mealtimes and throughout the day, to remind them of God.

Deut 6:4-9 MSG Attention, Israel! God, our God! God the one and only! Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got! Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates.

Num 15:37-41 God spoke to Moses: "Speak to the People of Israel. Tell them that from now on they are to make tassels on the corners of their garments and to mark each corner tassel with a blue thread. When you look at these tassels you'll remember and keep all the commandments of God, and not get distracted by everything you feel or see that seduces you into infidelities. The tassels will signal remembrance and observance of all my commandments, to live a holy life to God. I am your God who rescued you from the land of Egypt to be your personal God. Yes, I am God, *your* God."

Questions

- Do you think these commands are hyperbole (exaggeration), or do you think they are just often undervalued by many Christians?
- What would it look like for you in your current life stage to put these commands into action? What is one practical way to move closer to having God's Word written on your heart?
- What is one way you could use the "tassels" concept to practically help you remember God throughout your day?

Rob said our primary goal is to be PRESENT TO/WITH GOD. WE ARE THE INVITEES!! Not God. The kingdom is at HAND says Jesus, we are invited to attend.

We are invited to respond with a resounding **Yes** to our invite, as servants to a master.

It's not asking God to turn up, it's turning up to God.

If we are to take this idea of practicing the presence of God seriously it will involve "Real listening". Real listening takes effort and action.

Some ways to do this is by using the spiritual disciplines such as:

- Prayer, fasting, silence, solitude, stillness, Bible reading, Bible study, Bible meditation, sabbath

Questions

- What is your experience with the spiritual disciplines?
- Is there any you haven't tried or haven't done for a while that you would like to try this week?

Read Proverbs 3:5-12 MSG

Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

Don't assume that you know it all. Run to GOD! Run from evil!

Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life!

Honour GOD with everything you own; give him the first and the best.

Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over.

But don't, dear friend, resent God's discipline; don't sulk under his loving correction.

It's the child he loves that GOD corrects; a father's delight is behind all this.

Reflection questions while listening to this song "Resurrender by Hillsong and Brooke Fraser" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmtY4UjXCy4>

- Who is Lord on this journey? Why should I surrender? How do I reorder my life to put God first?
- Is there anything that's been stirred up in your heart from the Sunday sermon or from tonight's chat?
- What can you practically do in these next few days to start spending time with God, or more time with God, or spending time with God in a new way?

Prayer

Spend some time praying about and why we should and how we can grow in spending time in God's presence.