

Taking Worship Home

Discuss one or more of the following with a friend or family member.

1. Think of a person in your life who best demonstrates this quality of “presence.” How do they make you feel? Is there anything specific that this person does that communicates value to you and makes you feel safe?

2. Read some of the Scripture passages referenced in this section:

Genesis 16:7-14;

Luke 4:18-27; 10:38-42.

What story or conversation of Jesus best illustrates the quality of presence to you?

3. This week we were challenged to be present with the people around us.

Which of the following did you attempt? How did it go?

- a. Focus on being present in the conversations you have. Stop multitasking. Listen.
- b. Be yourself in conversations. Stop trying to impress or dominate.
- c. Listen to God while you talk to people. Invite him into your interactions.
- d. Practice humility in your conversations, especially with those in your family and others closest to you.
- e. Let go of your agenda and strategy and just go with it.

(from 42 Seconds, pages 68-69)

**Real conversations involve
really listening
to the person and
to the Holy Spirit.**

42
SECONDS

Prayer for the Week

Jesus, when you look at me, you truly see me. You see my failures;
you see my sin; you see my shame.

And yet, when you see me, your heart goes out to me.
With all my baggage, you still think I am worthy of love and belonging.

Thank you, Lord. Thank you for forgiveness and undeserved love.
Thank you for a new identity as your chosen follower.
Thank you for your ongoing presence in my life.

I relinquish control of my faith journey to you again today:
Jesus, take the initiative and make me receptive
to following wherever you lead.

Today I will live in confidence that
I am worthy of love and belonging in your eyes. Amen.

By the Book

This week, **read Section 2: Be Present** in the *42 Seconds* book (pages 33-69).
Try to get about halfway through **Section 3: Be Brave** for Sunday.

Section 2 is about being willing to listen: *“It means laying down any agenda or strategy and letting the interaction happen on its own terms. Real conversations involve really listening to the person and to the Holy Spirit”* (63).

Section 3 is about being willing to speak, but to speak in a way that flows from being truly present, *“to speak out of a heart that genuinely cares. And then to trust God to take care of the rest”* (103).

This week, be on the lookout for how the way you *listen* affects the ways you *speak*. What did you notice? What would you celebrate? What would you change?

Sermon Notes