

# PBCC LifeGroups: *I See a Church...*



## Lesson #2 - ...Marked by the Power and Presence of God

**Introduction:** 1) Have you ever stood on the edge of the Grand Canyon, or watched a magnificent sunset, and simply felt awe and wonder at the creative power of God? 2) Have you ever had a quiet moment, by yourself or maybe with a close friend, where you experienced the presence of God in a deep and mysterious way?

Whether through sweeping grandeur or gentle whispers, God makes his power and presence known to us. Once we experience it, we long for more. That is one of the purposes of the church: to provide us a place and a community, in which we experience the power and presence of God. That's what we're going to discuss this week.

### Focus Verses: Psalm 111:2-3 (ESV) Psalm 111:2-3 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

### Open it! Start with prayer!

1. Talk about a time when you experienced a deep sense of awe—because of something you saw, something you heard, or something you experienced. What happened? What did "awe" feel like?

2. How has our exposure to incredible special effects in movies, lifelike simulations in video games, smart phone devices, and so forth, impacted our ability to be awed?

### Explore it!

3. Watch the DVD for Session 2 now. As you watch the video, make some notes about interesting quotes, questions, or ideas here.

3.a. **Read Acts 2:42-43.** Acts 2:42-43 (ESV) “<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”

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## **Reflect on it! Acts 2:42-43**

4. The early church "devoted themselves" to teaching from apostles—men who had been with Jesus. What does it mean to devote yourself to teaching?

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5. In the video, we heard the two key components of the early church were practical teaching and authentic community. What did these early believers do to strengthen and build community?

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6. Why were they "filled with awe" according to this text?

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## **Apply it to your life...**

7. How can our worship help other people experience God?

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8. The word "fellowship" in our culture has become less potent than it was in New Testament times. How is our fellowship different from the radical commitment to one another practiced by the early church?

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11. The early church members didn't just pray on their own, they prayed corporately. How often do you gather to pray with other believers? What might happen to your spiritual life if you did that more often?

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12. What is one change you could make in your attitudes or actions that might allow you to experience more of the power and presence of God?

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To go deeper, check out the resources on the church website under the LifeGroups tab.

## **Pray for each other within your group...**

*How can we pray for you this week?*



## Going Deeper

### READ 2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-11

- ✓ What hardships did Paul and his companions endure?
- ✓ How did God answer their prayers?
- ✓ What does Paul request of the Corinthian church?

### READ ROMANS 15:30-33

- ✓ What did Paul ask the church at Rome to do for him?
- ✓ What specific requests does he ask them to pray for?
- ✓ He said that praying for him would be a way of joining in his struggle. Have you ever experienced that when praying for someone? What happened?

## Daily Reflections:

**Day 1.** READ PSALM 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

**CONSIDER:** What does this verse tell us about God's power? What challenges are you currently facing that will require God's strength and help?

**Day 2.** READ HEBREWS 10:21-22 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

**CONSIDER:** Spend some time just picturing the image described in these verses. What situation in your life feels like this picture? How are we able to say "we will not fear" in the face of this chaos?

**Day 3.** READ PSALM 46: 4-5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

**CONSIDER:** What promises do we find in these verses? What particular area of your life do you need God's help with?

**Day 4.** READ PSALM 46:6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

**CONSIDER:** In what ways are "nations in uproar" in our world today? In what ways is your own world in uproar? What do you need from God in this moment?

**Day 5.** READ PSALM 46:7 The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**CONSIDER:** What does God promise us? How does God serve as a fortress for his people? What do you think that means, from a practical standpoint?

**Day 6.**

Reflect on any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your devotional time this week. You may also want to write down observations or questions that you'd like to share with the group at your next meeting.