



December 20

Rob Kelly

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

John 15; Isaiah 8-9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is something about your character that you would like to be different? How have past attempts to change or grow in that area failed? According to John 15, what is the key to our personal growth in life's most important areas?
2. Reflect on what your habits, what you spend time thinking about, and your daily activities, reveal what you really hope in?
3. What makes it hard for you to believe that God is near you at all times?
4. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6 NIV) What do these characteristics of Jesus mean for you and your ability to experience peace?
5. What is one thing you can do to adopt the lifestyle of Jesus by living a less hurried life?
6. *"The first and most basic thing we can and must do is to keep God before our minds... This is the fundamental secret of caring for our souls. Our part in thus practicing the presence of God is to direct and redirect our minds constantly to Him. In the early time of our 'practicing' we may well be challenged by our burdensome habits of dwelling on things less than God. But these are habits—not the law of gravity—and can be broken. A new, grace-filled habit will replace the former ones as we take intentional steps toward keeping God before us. Soon our minds will return to God as the needle of a compass constantly returns to the north. If God is the great longing of our souls, He will become the pole star of our inward beings." —Dallas Willard*

What do you think it will look like to incorporate the habit of "Practicing the Presence of God" into your daily life?