

# The Gift of Presence



- The Power of Presence -

## Ice-Breaker:

- If you've been on a mission trip to Mexico or another foreign country, did you notice that the Christians there were more joyful and content than we are? If so, why do you suppose that was the case?

## Discussion:

1. Pastor Bryan made the comment: *"We are often so busy doing, that we're not just being present with people."* Do you find this to be the case in our culture? Explain.
2. Pastor Bryan said: *"Presence influences joy and happiness in life."* Explain why this is the case.
3. Read Hebrews 3:13; I Peter 1:22; Hebrews 10:24-25. What do these passages teach us about being truly present in the lives of other Christians, in a deep and meaningful way?
4. Pastor Bryan said a chief problem in our culture is the fact that we're constantly distracted (by our possessions, toys, to-do list, hobbies, media, technology, etc.). What do you find to be the greatest distraction when it comes to being present relationally with other people?
5. Read Romans 12:4-8. What does this passage teach us about needing other Christians in our lives?
6. Read Romans 12:9-18. Paul gives a whole list of instructions on how to live a fruitful Christian life. Which of these stand out to you, and why?

## Personal Application:

Technoference is the interference of technology in relationships.

- Do you see technoference as a big problem in our society? Why or why not?
- Is technoference a problem for you? If so, what steps might you take to "unplug" more often so that you can be more present with people?