



Sermon Study - 4.19.2026

Leader's Corner

Presence in an AI World

Genesis 11:1-9, John 1:14

Summary: This week isn't about being anti-technology—it's about being pro-presence. The world is becoming more efficient—but also more disconnected. The Church's opportunity is not to compete on efficiency, but to offer what cannot be replicated: presence, relationship, and love.

Main Idea: God did not choose efficiency—He chose presence. And presence is still the primary way transformation happens.

Main Passage: Genesis 11:1-9, John 1:14

Main Practice: Intentionally choose presence over convenience this week— with God, with people, and with purpose.

Prayer and Praise

Liturgical Group Prayer (Read Together):

Leader:

God of all wisdom,
You see every moment we are living in,
and You understand the times better than we do.

Group:

Give us eyes to see what is shaping us,
and hearts that are anchored in You.

Leader:

Forgive us for the ways we have chosen convenience over connection,
efficiency over presence,
and control over trust.

Group:

Draw us back to You,
and renew our desire for Your presence.

Leader:

Teach us to slow down,
to listen,
and to be fully present with You and with others.

Group:

Make us loving, life-giving people
bringing hope and healing in Jesus.

All:

We offer ourselves to You again—
not as bricks to build our own lives,
but as living stones in Your hands.
Amen.

Worship Suggestions:

- "The Heart of Worship"
- "Nothing Else"

Group Discussion

Part 1: Understanding the Times (Issachar Lens): Read 1 Chronicles 12:32

- Where do you see AI most influencing everyday life right now?
- What do you think people love about AI? What might concern you?
- Why is it important that followers of Jesus understand culture without fearing it?

Part 2: The Tower of Babel Connection: Read Genesis 11:1–8

Three Motivations: Autonomy (on our terms) / Immortality (making a name) / Uniformity (control, sameness)

- Which of the three motivations do you see most in our culture today?
- Which one do you personally feel most pulled toward?
- Where do you see “building with bricks instead of trusting God’s provision?”

Part 3: Presence vs. Efficiency: Read John 1:14

- Why do you think God chose presence instead of efficiency?
- Where are you tempted to choose efficiency over relationship?
- What are some “white space” moments in your life that you tend to fill instead of experience?

Part 4: The Early Church Model: Read Acts 2:42–47

- What stands out about how the early church lived?
- What would feel hardest to replicate from that kind of community?
- Where do you long for more of that kind of presence in your life?

Part 5: The Three Priorities: Presence with God / Presence with People / Purpose from God to People

- Which of these is strongest in your life right now?
- Which one is weakest?
- What is one thing currently competing with presence in your life?

Practice

Group Practice (In the Room):

“Presence Moment” Exercise (5–7 minutes)

- Pair up. One person shares something real (stress, decision, or joy).
- The other person: Does NOT fix / Does NOT give advice / Simply listens, asks 1–2 questions, and reflects back what they heard.

Debrief:

- What felt different about that kind of interaction?
- Was it harder to not fix or not fill silence?

Individual Practice (This Week): Choose ONE

With God:

- Spend 10 uninterrupted minutes daily in Scripture + prayer (no devices, no AI).

With People:

- Replace one digital interaction with a physical one (call instead of text, meet instead of message).

With Purpose:

- Intentionally show up for someone in a costly or inconvenient way.

Further Study

Scripture to Explore:

- Genesis 11:1–9
- Romans 12:2
- Psalm 46:10
- Hebrews 10:24–25
- 1 Peter 2:5

Reflection Questions:

- Where am I choosing convenience over connection?
- What is forming my thinking more than God’s Word?
- Where might God be inviting me to slow down and be present?