



NEAR

2020 has been one of the most challenging and disruptive years that many of us have ever experienced. Countless individuals and families are feeling discouraged, frustrated and down and out. If you're weary and disenchanted, you likely need some specific truths and promises that will help encourage and reorient your current mindset. Through our next message series, NEAR, we will investigate and reflect on God's heart for sinners and sufferers. Don't miss this opportunity to be encouraged as well as to invite your family and friends to experience God's heart for them.

Pastor Jay Haugh

Pursue God

Immersed in Scripture

As we investigate the heart of God, it would be helpful to reflect on who you think God is and how He views you. Each week spend time on your own ruminating over the following questions. Record your thoughts so you can look back at how God is changing and shaping you.

When you think of God what image comes to mind? What words would you use to describe God?

When God thinks of you what does He see? What words would He use to describe you?

How do your answers to 1 and 2 affect your relationship with God?

Pursue Others

Engage One Another & Our Community

God has enlisted His people to love, serve, and reach those who have not yet submitted their lives to Him.

A small group willing to embrace this call takes intentionality. It is in our small groups where we best learn and grow in our faith.

We encourage your group to spend some time allowing people to share what they learned from God's Word in their own personal time. In addition, spend time sharing what God is teaching you through our NEAR series.

Practice His Ways

Adopt the Lifestyle

J. I. Packer offers four measurements to help determine how well we see God. Where would you rate yourself this week on the following scales?

Do you have energy for God and His work?

When you have an accurate view of God, you have energy to get into His Word. When you see people in need, you have energy to move in for God and to pray. Where do you fit on the continuum today?

LOW ENERGY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 HIGH ENERGY

What are your thoughts about God?

Do you find your mind stimulated as you anticipate thinking about God? What comes to mind when you quiet your mind to pray? How often in your prayer time do you find yourself overwhelmed with God's majesty, glory, righteousness, holiness, or greatness?

LOW THOUGHTS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 HIGH THOUGHTS

How bold are you?

People with an accurate view of God are bold in their choices and convictions without being controlled by what other people think. Among the early apostles, the greatest evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit had nothing to do with gifts, but rather with boldness.

LOW BOLDNESS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 HIGH BOLDNESS

Are you content?

An accurate view of God gives peace that surpasses understanding. When you know God is for you, you can encounter difficulties with confidence because the King of the universe with His unlimited resources and who gave up His son dwells in you.

LOW CONTENTMENT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 HIGH CONTENTMENT

NEAR

Message 4: *His Welcoming Embrace*

John 6:37-40

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Big Idea: *All who come to Jesus will certainly not be cast out, but faithfully preserved.*

1. What has the experience of journaling together during services been like for you? Spend some time reflecting on and sharing with one another how this has been beneficial and how it has been difficult.
2. In John 6:26 we hear how there are people following Jesus because of what they can get from him. In what ways does this idea, following Jesus so he will give or do something for you, resonate with you? In what ways does it not resonate?
3. If you were talking to God, would you feel the need to say, "But I....[fill in unworthy objection here]"? Share with your group what you would use to complete that phrase.
4. How do these, "But I..." beliefs, impact your relationships with others in your small group, family, friends or workplace?
5. Are you hearing the lie that God doesn't love you? Do you believe you deserve to be forsaken? What are the truths you need to replace those lies and how can you do that? If you don't know - be courageous and ask your small group for help.
6. How can these truths change your relationship with God? Can they have any impact on your relationship with others?