

## **Access Granted** - Sermon Notes

Sunday 31 May

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Greeting and welcoming

Opening Question:

By show of hands, who was born/grew up in the 80s?

To all the babies of the 80s, this morning is just for you!

I was born in 2003, and I grew up in the time where the world was transitioning from VHS and cassette tapes to CDs and DVDs. I was lucky enough to have experienced both, so this morning, allow me to take you on a trip down nostalgia avenue.

### *SLIDE 1 – VINYL PLAYER & CLOSE UP PHOTO*

I have with me a vinyl player, and to the younger people here today, this is what they used to play music with waayyy back before Spotify and Apple Music. The vinyl has tiny grooves with the sound embedded into it, and then the needle of the vinyl player would send the sound through the amp or speakers, recreating the exact sound from the original recording.

The vinyl player served as probably the best way to listen to music throughout the 50s, 60s, and 70s. That is up until 1979, when the first Walkman was invented.

Who here has ever owned their own Walkman, or similar device?

### SLIDE 2 – WALKMAN PHOTO

The Walkman was a revolutionary, groundbreaking invention, where you could take your favorite music with you anywhere, anytime. It made music easily accessible to everyone. You'd strap it onto your belt buckle, you'd put in a pair of headphones cause it didn't have its own speakers, and then you'd play your favorite tunes on the go.

Now, I want you to keep these 2 objects in mind as we discuss God's presence.

### SLIDE 3 – GOD'S PRESENCE WAS REAL, BUT RESERVED

In the Old Testament God's presence wasn't as accessible. It was shown and experienced in a lot of different ways and through a lot of people, but it wasn't given to all, and for the main part was only accessible to kings, priests, prophets and judges.

God showed his power and glory numerous times in the Old Testament: the flood, splitting the red sea, the fall of Jericho, etc. There is no doubt whether he was *present* or not, but we notice that not everyone had access to his *presence*.

### SLIDE 4 – Exodus 24:15-16a, Hebrews 9:7a-8 (NLT)

Think about when Moses had to go up a mountain to meet with God in **Exodus 24: "15 Then Moses climbed up the mountain, and**

the cloud covered it. 16And the glory of the Lord settled down on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days....”

Or when Hebrews mentions the Old Testament: “7But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year... 8By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle and the system it represented were still in use.”

When I think of this, I’m reminded of the vinyl player. It was reserved only for certain places, people and moments. It was there, but it wasn’t accessible to all.

But all that changed the moment that Jesus came to earth.

#### SLIDE 5 – JESUS GAVE US FULL ACCESS

When he died on the cross for our sins, and rose from the grave, Jesus gave us full access to God’s presence.

The Holy Spirit was no longer restricted or reserved but could now be freely given to all who seek and believe.

Since the garden of Eden, humanity was on the outside looking in, being separated by sin from the intimacy we once had with God. However, Jesus bridged the gap between us and God by taking the consequences of all our wrong doings upon himself, and in return gives us a chance at a restored relationship with the Father.

#### SLIDE 6 – Matt 27:50-51, Heb 10:19 (NLT)

We read in Matthew 27: “50Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. 51At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary

of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart”

This is followed up by the next statement in Hebrews 10: “19And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus.”

*Hebrews continued* ”20By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. 21And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, 22let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.”

We have been redeemed and the relationship has been restored. We have been given full access to God again.

### SLIDE 7 – WE ARE “WALKMAN” BELIEVERS

This means that we now get to carry God’s presence with us everywhere we go. We are the Walkman believers.

Not only do we have access to God the Father, not only do we get to have a relationship with Jesus, but we are given the Holy Spirit, who lives in us.

Short Story:

Friend who snuck backstage at a concert to meet the artist.

Punchline:

Although he had no backstage pass (forgiveness of sin), through relationship with the stage director (Jesus) he was allowed to meet the artist (God) and was given a free signed shirt/gift (Holy

Spirit) to take home with him and share the story every time he wears it.

*SLIDE 8 – John 14:16-17a (NLT), “ALLOS PARAKLETOS”*

I want to read from **John 14**, and it says the following:

**16**And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. **17**He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.

The Greek word for "another" is allos, which means "another of the same kind". Jesus is assuring the disciples that this new Helper will be identical in nature, power, and essence to Himself. The Greek word parakletos literally means "one called alongside to help" - often used in ancient contexts for a legal advocate, a defense attorney, or a source of deep comfort and strength. It is most often translated into English as Advocate, Helper, Comforter, or Counselor.

Now I'm certain we've all wished that we could've met Jesus in person, right? How cool would it be to grab a coffee with Jesus? I mean, we don't have to pay for coffee, we could just order water and see what happens...

The thing is, Jesus, as a human, would have to run a tight schedule to be able to "sit down" with each and every one with us. And honestly, I don't want to speed date Jesus, and neither does he. Therefore, he says that he will send an allos parakletos; one of the same kind, same essence as him. And through the Holy Spirit, he gets to have a personal connection with all of us.

I saw a video on Instagram where the guy said something along the lines of: We often think about getting to heaven and asking Moses & Noah & Elijah what was it like experiencing the miracles they witnessed in their lives and and and... but have you ever thought what if we get to heaven and they all cue up to ask us “What was it like living a life with full access to the holy spirit?”

We are the Walkman believers.

We have full access to God, we are in complete right standing because of Jesus, and we get to experience the Holy Spirit everyday of our lives.

### SLIDE 9 – REAL TALK

So, we’re going to do something different today. At youth services we have a segment called real talk, and the teens will know exactly what to do when I tell them that “it’s time for... real talk!”

Divide into groups of 2-3 people, there will be a question on the screen, and you will have 3 minutes to discuss, meaning each person gets about 1 minute to contribute to the conversation.

In real talk, we have 1 rule: no christianese! No trying to impress others with my answer, no using big words you never use except at church, just real talk. This is the place where we learn and grow together, and where we apply what we’ve heard to our lives.

*SLIDE 10 – How does it make you feel knowing that you have full access to God’s presence?*

(Question implies/solidifies that we **do** in fact have full access – sela on this truth)

*SLIDE 11 – Do you engage with God as regularly as you can?*

(Question makes us consider whether we take every opportunity we get to tap into God’s omnipotent presence – God is always present, are you aware of his presence?)

*SLIDE 12 – What can you do to become more aware of Holy Spirit in your everyday life?*

(Question prompts a next step – what can I start doing differently **today**?)