

GOD WITH US - Part 1 IN THE VALLEY

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”
Matthew 1:23 NLT

**WE MAY _____ GOD ON THE MOUNTAINTOPS, BUT
WE GET TO _____ HIM INTIMATELY IN THE VALLEYS.**

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. ⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. ⁷ They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. Psalm 84:5-7

Blessed are those whose strength is in you ... Psalm 84:5

What joy for those whose strength comes from the LORD, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Psalm 84:5 NLT

As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. Psalm 84:6

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. Psalm 139:7-10

Journey Group Discussion

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What parts of this message do you feel like you really needed to hear?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you think and live like God is always with you? Explain.

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- God is with you. How can you draw near to Him during this season?
- Read Psalm 139:7-10. What thoughts do these verses stir in you?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- We talked about how we get to know God in the valleys. What have you learned about God in a valley?
- When was the last time you slowed down and pursued God's presence in a moment? What happened? How could you do this more often?
- Talk about a difficult area in your life where you especially need to keep your mind fixed on God. How will you do it?
- What you think about matters. What is some thinking you want to change?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, what an incredible honor that You spend time with us. You sent Your Son to be with us. You are with us at work, home, and in between. You are with us in the valley. Help us to fix our hearts and minds on You. We pray this by the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- If you don't already spend a set time with God daily, try it this week. If you do, try adding a portion of quietly waiting on God's presence.