

## GOD WITH US - Part 2 IN THE WILDERNESS

*“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*

### YOUR DEEPEST NEED BECOMES A \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN IT DRIVES YOU TO \_\_\_\_\_ ON GOD.

*Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup> while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” 1 Kings 19:3-4*

*... All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” <sup>6</sup> He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. 1 Kings 19:5-6*

*The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” <sup>8</sup> So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>9</sup> There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 1 Kings 19:7-9*

*He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” 1 Kings 19:10*

*The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 1 Kings 19:11-12*

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18*

*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, <sup>10</sup> 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.

- Have you ever spent time in a national park or other wilderness area? Where? What did you like about it?

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

- Read the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19:3-12. What do you think God is trying to communicate to Elijah? To us?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- We said, “Your deepest need becomes a gift when it drives you to depend on God.” Have you experienced this gift? Can you share your story?
- What are some ways you’ve encountered God’s presence in the past? What can you do to discover God’s provision and rest during this time in your life?
- How did God communicate to Elijah? How about you? How can you adjust your life to hear from Him?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- God, we get to know You. Thank You for that. Thank You for speaking to us in Your still, small, voice. Teach us to find rest and provision in Your presence. Teach us to hear Your voice. Thank You for coming near to us as we draw near to You. Amen!

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

- Practice waiting on God this week. Each day, ask Him to turn your needs into the gift of depending on Him.