



GOD *With* US

IN THE VALLEY – WEEK 1

Small Group Time:

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with key questions, add any optional Scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Main Idea:

God is with us in every moment. We may feel that we are deep in a valley, or alone in a desert. We might be on top of the mountain looking for direction, or just waiting to see if our prayers will be answered. No matter our circumstances, we can celebrate that God is with us.

Key Questions:

1. What is the best Christmas memory you have? What is the worst Christmas memory you have?
2. Read **Matthew 1:23**. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you think and live like God is always with you? Explain.
3. God is with you. How can you draw near to Him during this season?
4. Read **Psalms 139:7-10**. What thoughts do these verses stir in you?
5. Ben talked about how we get to know God intimately in the valleys. What have you learned about God in a valley?
6. Why do we struggle so much to believe God is with us in the difficult moments of our lives? When's the last time you've gone thru a valley and found it hard to see God or believe that He is with you?
7. Ben talked about our tendency to retract from others and rely on independence in the difficult moments of life. Do we find it natural to lean into other people or isolate ourselves during the valleys of life? How do we change that?
8. Ben talked about our tendency to push away from God when we're hurting (child story when they skin their knee), but when we let go and embrace the grip of the Father, we experience true comfort. What are some ways we can lean into God in the middle of the valley?

Next Steps:

- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?