

DISCUSSION GUIDE



January 12/15, 2017

BIG IDEA: Surely God is in this place, and I was not aware of it.

GROUPS VISION

We believe life transformation happens when we engage with other people, with Jesus as our focus, and take next steps together. A next step is where we Ask, Listen, and Respond to take any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

KEY VERSE

**In Your presence is
fullness of joy.**

Psalm 16:11 NKJV

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Pray this prayer every day for the next week: "Lord, help me to be aware You are with me." Then make notes of where you experience His presence.

21-Day Prayer & Fasting

- Daily Bible reading
- Memorizing verses
- Ask, Listen & Respond to take a next step

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MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

1. We were never created to be alone; loneliness is a sorrow the human heart was never meant to know. The human heart is most alive in the presence of God. **(Genesis 1:28; Psalm 16:11)**
2. When Adam and Eve sinned, they felt the sting of loneliness. We will never feel connected to others until we feel connected to God. God wants to be with us more than we want to be with Him.
3. God revealed Himself to Jacob, and he had an awakening in God's presence. We learn from Jacob that God is with us because He is good – not because we are good. **(Genesis 28:10-17)**
4. God's presence can be explained as our awareness that He is with us, and that He is revealing Himself to us. Here are five ways to experience His presence:
 - a) His presence holds us together. **(Colossians 1:17)**
 - b) His presence surrounds us. **(Psalm 139:7)**
 - c) His presence is within us. **(John 20:22; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 2:20)**
 - d) His presence is in our godly relationships. **(Matthew 18:20)**
 - e) His presence is tangible in our worship. **(Psalm 22:3 NKJV)**
5. Often we are so focused on what's in front of us, we miss God all around us. We need to change our perspective to be more aware of God within us rather than the world against us. **(2 Corinthians 4:18)**
6. God is with us, and we have the authority to bring heaven to earth. What we gained in Jesus is more than what we lost in Adam. When we become aware He is with us, everything changes. **(John 1:51; Isaiah 64:1 NKJV; Romans 5:17; Genesis 28:18-22; 2 Corinthians 3:17)**

DISCUSSION

1. Pastor John shared a couple examples of when he felt lonely. Describe a time when you felt lonely, and how that impacted you. (See points #1-2)
 2. Share a time when you knew God was with you. (See points #3-4)
 3. What are some practical ways of changing our focus to become more aware that God is with us? (See questions #5-6)
- **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**
 - **What is your next step?**

Do you have a story of someone taking a next step?
Share with us at groups@valleycreek.org