



"God With Us In Our Fear"
December 15-16, 2018
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INTRODUCTION

Christmas is often full of many wonderful things: joy, family time, celebration and fellowship. Yet Christmas is also a season where people experience deep struggles as well. We wrestle with issues like doubts, anxiety, fears and failures. Yet through it all, the miracle, the message, and the encouragement of Christmas is that **GOD IS WITH US.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are two of your biggest fears?
2. Read 1 John 4:18. Why do you think we associate fear/punishment with God?
 - a. **Why is God's love the perfect antidote to our fears?**
3. Read Matthew 14:25-31. Amazingly, for a time Peter was walking on water toward Jesus. Then he was filled with fear and started to sink right about the **time he took his eyes off Jesus and saw the wind and waves. Jesus' immediate response to Peter's cry for help: he catches him.**
 - a. Share about a time you experienced the Jesus catching you as you fell into fear.
4. Read Psalm 23:1-4. Which part of this passage resonates with you the most, and why?
 - a. **"Dark valleys" are part of life. (*see John 16:33).** Share a time when Jesus comforted you as your Good Shepherd in the midst of your fears **in a "dark valley" of life.**
 - b. **In what life situation do you need God's comfort today?**
5. Read Mark 4:35-41. Share an experience in your life where a storm arose quickly —and was beyond your control.
 - a. How did Jesus show his perfect love by calming the storm, or calming you in the midst of the storm?
 - b. Read Psalm 30:11-12. Has God ever turned your mourning into dancing again, or lifted your sorrow and clothed you with joy? Tell that story.
6. Read Psalm 27. Despite his difficult situation, David derives tremendous **confidence from the "track record" of the Lord working in his life. How do you relate to this mindset in your life? On a 1-10 scale, how confident do you tend to be in God when facing a big foe or big fear?**
 - a. Read Hebrews 4:16. How does this encourage you today?

7. Read John 3:16-17. Share about the time when the truth of this verse got into your heart. How does this truth help displace or alleviate your fears?
 - a. Why are these verses such an important reminder for us?

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Even though I walk through the darkest valleys, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share prayer requests and close in prayer. Commit to praying for one another throughout the week.