



God With Us wk1: Shattered Dreams

Introduction: We often feel like God is with us when we are on the mountaintops; when things are going really well or we've witnessed something amazing. But the promise of the Incarnation, is that God has come to be with us, wherever we find ourselves. That includes when our dreams have been shattered. Is He there and what do we do when things have not gone to plan?

Discussion Questions

1. What's the most memorable Christmas present you ever received/given?
2. It's been said that we enjoy God on the mountain top but we get to know Him in the valley. What does that mean and can you describe that kind of experience?
3. Read **Matthew 1:18-19** We don't get a lot of details about how or when Joseph got this news. What kind of emotions or reaction do you think Joseph may have had? Have you ever experienced something that seemed like it couldn't be the way God would normally do something, yet in hindsight you see His hand in it?
4. Read **Matthew 1:20-25** What choice is Joseph faced with? Do you think he had more questions than answers? Why would God ask Joseph and us to obey without having all the information? How did Joseph's shattered dream and subsequent obedience to God's message affect his relationship with God?
5. Read **Jeremiah 29:13-14** This is God's promise to his people who were being disciplined for their sin. How will they experience God's presence even during this difficult time? What can we learn from that?
6. One of the characteristics of God is omnipresence, meaning that He is everywhere at once. Why do we struggle at times to feel or experience His presence? Is there anything that helps you recognize His presence?
7. As we celebrate Christmas, how can we be more intentional with our own presence with others and not just gifts?

Shaping Your Mind – *“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.” John 1:14*

Moving Forward – *We enjoy God on the mountaintop; we get to know Him in the valley.*