

God With Us wk3: Seeking

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. God has promised that we can find Him when we seek Him with all of our heart. Sometimes that seeking requires taking steps into the unknown.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever wondered why we celebrate Christmas when there is no mandate in scripture or evidence that the earliest Christians did? How does knowing the historical context of Christmas, with its possible pagan origins, affect your celebration of Jesus' birth?
- 2. Read **Matthew 2:1-12** Most people think that the wise men appear the day Jesus is born. Does it matter that they come a little later? Why do you think Matthew tells us about these visitors coming with gifts to worship Jesus?
- 3. The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh are costly and have symbolic meanings. What is significant about them? How do these gifts emphasize Jesus as not only a baby, but also our King, priest, and the Lamb of God?
- 4. Read Acts 17:27 If God is not far from us, why do we struggle to experience His presence sometimes? How can you keep seeking, even when you feel like you are struggling?
- 5. What obstacles have you faced in seeking God, and how can the Magi's story motivate you to persevere in your journey?

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

Moving Forward – "God has a habit of bringing light to the darkness".