

God Is With Me

Lesson 02 of the series, "God Is..."

A. God Is With Me.

"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20 (NLT)

1. God is with me in good times.

I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried... And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me." Nehemiah 2:5-8 (NLT)

Life Application: We need to praise God for his goodness.

"Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things." Psalm 103:2-5 (NLT)

2. God is with us in hard times.

"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you." Isaiah 43:2 (NLT)

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4 (NIV)

Life Application: Hard times become a gift if they drive me to depend on God.

"We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us." 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (NLT)

3. God is with me in wilderness times.

Jezebel sent this message to Elijah: "May the gods strike me and even kill me if by this time tomorrow I have not killed you just as you killed them." Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said... "Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped

his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And a voice said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 1 Kings 19:2-4, 11-13 (NLT)

Life Application: I'll be able to hear God better if I'm quiet and still.

This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "Only in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength. But you would have none of it." Isaiah 30:15 (NLT)

B. I am NOT an orphan.

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you."
John 14:16-18 (NLT)

Life Application: I must act and think like a child of God.

"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.' For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children." Romans 8:11-16 (NLT)

1. I must listen to my Father by reading the Bible.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

2. I must talk to my Father about everything through prayer.

"My heart has heard you say, 'Come and talk with me.' And my heart responds, 'LORD, I am coming.'" Psalm 27:8 (NLT)

"But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you." Matthew 6:6 (NLT)

3. I must fellowship with my Christian brothers and sisters.

"For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."
Matthew 18:20 (NLT)

"If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead. Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them. We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:14-16 (NLT)

Quotations to Consider:

“Your deepest need becomes a gift when it drives you to depend on God.”
~Craig Groeschel~

“At our first entrance into the school of waiting upon God, the heart is chiefly set upon the blessings which we wait for. God graciously uses our need and desire for help to educate us for something higher than we were thinking of. We were seeking gifts; He, the Giver, longs to give Himself and to satisfy the soul with His goodness.”
~Andrew Murray~

Resources:

You Version Bible Reading Plans: www.bible.com/reading-plans

Join a Connect Group: www.centeringlives.com/ministries/connect-groups/

Seven Days of Prayer: www.centeringlives.com

Connect Group Questions:

1. Can you think of a critical moment in your life when you felt abandoned and alone and turned to God for support? What are some of the ways the Father has comforted you in the past?
2. What blessings did you receive from the Lord in 2018? Spend some time as a group praising God.
3. Read John 14:16-18. Why do you think Jesus told His disciples that He would not leave them as orphans? What does this mean?
4. Read Romans 8:11-16. Do you see yourself as a child of God? Why? Why not? How will our understanding of our relationship with God impact our lives in 2019?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-10. Can hard times actually be beneficial to us spiritually? If so, share one experience where you found this to be true.
6. What is your Bible reading plan for 2019? Share one insight God has already given you this year.
7. Who do you know that needs to be involved in a connect group? Share his/her name and pray for all of the people you come up with. Ask God to help them find a group. Who can you invite to join your group?