



Week Four

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for meeting us here. Help us to say 'yes' to what you have for us today. Help us to be aware of what you are doing. Amen.

Talk It Over

In this series we will be exploring who Jesus is, what Jesus did, and why his story matters to us now. This week we looked at the idea that Jesus is always present with us — even when we don't feel it or we are never alone.

- Tell us about a friend who is really good at being present with you. *Consider sharing on the following questions: Why did you pick this person? How would you describe this person's presence? What does this person's availability mean to you?*
- Tell us about the first experience you had that led you to consider, believe, or trust that Jesus was present with you.

Read Matthew 10:29-31 (ERV) and Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)

While it's not uncommon for us to look for God in the destination or the big, dramatic details of life, the Bible gives us reason to think God cares about the details and he is active with us in the mundane and detours of life. In fact, while it's not always this simple, there is a spiritual reality that sometimes it can feel like God isn't present simply because we aren't open to the smaller, more subtle ways he may be moving.

- How easy or hard is it for you to buy into the idea that God cares about the details of your life? Why is this an easy or hard idea to buy into for you?
- Tell us about a time you saw God work in the details or mundane of your life.
- Have you ever had a season where it felt like God wasn't present? Or like he didn't care? A season where you felt stuck waiting on a breakthrough of sorts? Share about that experience.
 - As a follow up to the last question, in the event you didn't do so already, tell us how that season ended up playing out.
- Looking at your current season, is there an area of life you keep focusing on God's movement in the big things? Tell us about what your wanting and what your focus is.
 - As a follow up to the last question, how might you be more open to looking for God in the details too?

Psalm 34:18 (ERV)

God's presence goes with us even in the most difficult seasons of life. And while there is no need to deny how hard it can be to sense God moving when things are falling apart and when hope feels lost, God desires for us

to actively seek him. This often requires us carving out intentional space and time, creating deliberate moments, and slowing down to seek God even when he feels distance or like we're at a dead end.

- Have you ever sought God out in the midst of a hard season? Tell us what worked for you and how you were able to still actively seek him.
- Looking at your life this season, how does your rhythm or pace work towards or against your ability to connect with Jesus?

“Every step is an arrival...”- Eugene Peterson

Saying 'yes' to Jesus is not intended to simply be some magical destination. Saying 'yes' to Jesus is about actively looking to say 'yes' to Jesus every step of the way. Saying 'yes' to Jesus is about allowing our faith in Jesus to lead our life, step-by-step.

- How might you get better at connecting with Jesus this season?
- Are there things you might do different this season if you knew God was present? Tell us about that.

Closing Prayer

God, help us to know you are with us. Help us to look for you in the midst of the mundane moments, the details, and the heartbreak. We want to live aware, awake, and open to your presence. Amen.

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.