

Small Group Discussion Guide — October 25, 2020

- Series: Gospel Truth - Good News for Everyone
 - Sermon: "You Are Never Alone"
 - Scripture: Deuteronomy 31: 8, Psalm 139: 7-10, John 14: 16-18
-

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:

Have you given yourself a fresh start in the past week? How many times?

CONNECT:

1. What one thing stood out for you from this weekend's services?
2. Share about the longest or farthest trip you've ever made alone?

ENGAGE:

1. Read Deuteronomy 31:8.
 - Do you really believe that the Lord goes before you wherever you go? How does this trust show up in your daily life?
 - How do you react when feelings of discouragement or fear crop up?
2. Read Psalm 139: 7-10.
 - How do these verses change your perspective on the up-and-downs, problems, and crises that are part of daily life, especially during a pandemic?
3. Read John 14:16-18.
 - What kind of pictures do you get in your head when you think of the Holy Spirit?
 - What does an advocate do? How does this expand your understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in your life?

APPLY:

1. Many of us grew up with a mental picture of God as the great Scorekeeper up in Heaven, who carefully watched everything we did, said, and thought, and kept track of our behavior. How does it change your perception of God to hear that He lives in you? How does being present change a relationship?
2. If you're a follower of Jesus, are you doing it for what He can do for you and the needs he can meet, or to love, serve and honor Him? Think about it...

PRAY:

Father in heaven, you've been called Emmanuel - God with us. Teach us to not only appreciate your constant nearness and presence in our very hearts, but to revel in it, to make it a foundational part of the way we live every day. Draw us deeper and deeper into the kind of close and open relationship you so strongly desire with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Being alone with God, who lives within us and wants us to know Him, means spending time with Him in solitude. That can be a daunting prospect for many people. How does solitude feel for you? Have you had much experience with it? What are some steps you can commit to this week, to become more comfortable with it?
2. Has Jesus ever seemed like an “imaginary friend” to you? If so, what are your thoughts on this right now? On what are you basing your thinking?
3. Discuss the idea that Jesus’ love for us is the opposite of being:
 - sold something
 - manipulated
 - taken advantage of
 - used
 - exploited
 - abused

In which of these areas do you struggle to trust God the most?

SUPPORTING VERSES:

Matthew 28:20

Colossians 1:27

Luke 23:46

1 John 3:16

Mark 9:42

QUOTES

“Imagine you’re falling off a cliff, and sticking out of the cliff is a branch that is strong enough to hold you, but you don’t know how strong it is. As you fall, you have just enough time to grab that branch. How much faith do you have to have in the branch for it to save you? Must you be totally sure that it can save you? No, of course not. You only have to have enough faith to grab the branch. That’s because it’s not the quality of your faith that saves you; it’s the object of your faith. It doesn’t matter how you feel about the branch; all that matters is the branch. And Jesus is the branch.”

Timothy Keller

“But Jesus will not be a means to an end; he will not be used. If he calls you to follow him, he must be the goal.”

Timothy Keller