

Small Group Discussion Guide — January 17, 2021

- Sermon: “You Are Never Alone”
 - Series: Gospel Truth
 - Scripture: Deuteronomy 31: 8, Psalm 139: 7-10, John 14: 16-18
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FOLLOW UP FROM LAST WEEK:

How did the practice of remembering God’s goodness and His work in your life change your perspective this week?

CONNECT:

Are you an introvert or extrovert? How do you typically spend time alone? Do you enjoy it? Why or why not?

ENGAGE:

1. Read Deuteronomy 31: 8.
 - Do you really believe the Lord is with you all the time? How has this time of COVID challenged or fortified this idea?
 - What are some things you do to remind yourself of this truth when you just don’t feel God’s presence?
2. Read Psalm 139: 7-10.
 - What do you notice about the verbs in this passage, and what do they suggest about God’s character and attitude towards you?
3. Read John 14: 16-18.
 - How do you think the disciples felt and thought about this idea of “the Spirit of truth” being with believers all the time? How is this different from what they had experienced?
 - In your own words, what is an “advocate”?
 - What kinds of things do you need God to help you with right now?

APPLY:

1. Think of someone in your life who has been worthy of your trust. What does it take for you to trust someone? In terms of trust, how do you respond when you feel like you don’t have answers? What are some things you can remember to cultivate trust in God when answers aren’t readily available and/or circumstances look dire?
2. If Christ is in us, it means we are never alone. But what else does it mean? How should it necessarily change us to have Christ *in us*?

PRAY:

Father, You have promised over and over again to be with us and to never leave us. But like children, we’re still afraid of being alone. Will you give us your peace that you are faithful to your promises, and we can trust that You go before, beside, and behind us wherever we go? In the name of Jesus, Amen.

GOING DEEPER:

As a Hope family, we are considering this Wednesday as a Day of Prayer. Either individually or as a group, intentionally schedule some time to pray for our nation as we inaugurate a new president amidst extreme polarization and disunity. Bring your fears, your sorrow, your hopes, and your requests to God, who is King over all the nations and faithful to His promises.

SUPPORTING VERSES:

- 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