



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 12th March

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20

I will be with you



Warm Up

Have you ever been alone and scared? Tell the story.

What difference would the presence of a friend make?

Background and context

God is omnipresent (everywhere) and the Bible describes many occasions when God was literally present with His people. In fact the golden thread that runs through the Bible is the concept that God wants to be with His people and takes steps to make it happen. Why is it then that sometimes we feel so far from God?

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

1. If possible print off /have available, different versions of Matthew 18:28. Get your group to read different versions out loud.
2. Read the following verses: Genesis 3:8-9, Exodus 13:21-22, Exodus 40:34-38, What do they reveal about God being with us?
3. In the OT, how were the Tabernacle, Temple and High Priest key in Israel's relationship with God?
4. What connection is there between the Tabernacle, Temple and High Priest and Jesus?
5. In the passion story, the curtain in the temple was torn, what is the symbolism of this action by God?
6. Read again Matthew 28:18-20. It divides neatly into three. Discuss the importance of "I am with you", "always", and "to the very end of the age." The second two parts are similar. Is this an error on Jesus' part?
7. Read Acts 2:1-4. What is the difference between God with Israel in the OT and God with the Church in the NT and beyond?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

8. If God is omnipresent, why do we sometimes feel distant from Him?
9. Why is 1 John 1:9 so important in maintaining closeness with God?
10. Why do we sometimes find repentance difficult if we know God wants us to be forgiven?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.