

God's Promise of Presence
Yea, Though I Walk Through the Valley ...

Life has its ups and downs. We love the ups, but oh how we hate the downs. In fact, truth be told, we'd all probably rather have a life which moves along on an even keel. But that's not the way it works. The Bible even tells us there will be hard times: "In the world ye shall have tribulation" *John 16:33* And again, "Casting all your care upon him" *1 Peter 5:7*

These are just two of the many verses where God tells us that things will not always be rosy. But the mercy of God is seen in the continuation of the verses: "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." And again, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." What astonishing promises from our gracious God.

Study Questions – *begin with prayer and ask God to open your heart and mind. Be honest with yourself and with God. There are no right or wrong answers.*

1. Write about one of the "valleys" of your life: How did you get there? Who did you find there? How did you feel at the time? How did you emerge from that particular valley?

Read: Deuteronomy 6:24, 1 Corinthians 1:8, Ephesians 6:18, Jude 1:24

2. Who was waiting for you when you emerged from that valley and why?

Read: Joshua 1:8, Joshua 8:34, 2 Kings 23:2, 2 Chronicles 34:30, Nehemiah 8:3, Psalm 1:2

3. When are you completely alone with God?

4. What do you have to do to make that happen? What do you sacrifice?

He is the Great Shepherd - Week Seven

Mission Valley Christian Fellowship

Spring 2007 Women's Study

with Sandra Giovinetti

5. What do you do during this time with God?

6. What does God want you do to when you are alone with Him?

7. How do you feel when you have this intimate time alone with God? How does it affect your day?

Read: Psalm 119:9-16, John 14:27

8. What do you expect to happen if you make time to be intimate with God every day?

9. What valleys do you foresee in your life? What challenges or difficulties are you expecting?

10. How do you feel knowing you will face these valleys?

11. How will you prepare for the valleys?

12. What scriptures will you turn to for comfort when you are deep in the valleys of your life?

Questions designated as "Personal" are designed to generate an intimate answer. No one will be called upon to share, but you may volunteer to share your answer. It may be that your response will be a blessing to someone else in your group

God promises that He will be with us in the valleys of life: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me" *Psalms 23:4* The knowledge that God is with us brings us great comfort. But sometimes we need to be reminded of God's promise.

13. Which of your friends will walk with you through these valleys and why?

Read: Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 23:3, Psalm 62:1, Psalm 62:5, Matthew 11:29

14. If you seek God when you are in the valleys, what should you expect when you emerge?

15. Looking back, give details about the most recent time when God's hand guided you through a valley? Did you know it at the time?

16. Give two scriptures which you turn to in order to revive your confidence that Christ is with you in the valleys of your life.

17. When have you shared these verses and their meaning in your life? What reaction did you get?

18. How will you continue to encourage that person through their own valleys?

Read: John 17:3, John 5:24, John 6:35, John 11:25-26, John 12:46

19. What will you tell them is the key to an intimate relationship with God?

He is the Great Shepherd - Week Seven

Mission Valley Christian Fellowship

Spring 2007 Women's Study

with Sandra Giovinetti

20. What will you do, this week, to find time to be completely alone with God?

Questions designated as "Personal" are designed to generate an intimate answer. No one will be called upon to share, but you may volunteer to share your answer. It may be that your response will be a blessing to someone else in your group