

Small Group Discussion Guide

God With Us and Through Us: For the week of November 21 - 27, 2021

Main Thought and Scriptures:

(Break into groups of 3-4. Discuss for 30-40 minutes)

This holiday season, we are reminded that the hope that we have in Christ must overflow in us so that it can flow through us into the lives of other people.

The more we experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, our hope grows and overflows.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace **as you trust in him**, so that you may overflow with hope **by the power of the Holy Spirit.**" (Romans 15:13 NIV)*

- Spiritual practices like consistent bible reading, prayer, worship, church, and small group participation all help us to experience God's presence in our daily lives.

Thus, we must remove distractions that keep us from seeking God.

*"As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' ⁴¹'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, '**you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴²but few things are needed—or indeed only one.** Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'" (Luke 10:38-42 NIV)*

- Martha allowed the distractions of life to draw her attention away from Jesus, whereas Mary understood that she should be seeking Jesus first.
- Like Mary, we need to remove the distractions that keep us from experiencing God's presence.

We experience God's presence as we partner with Him in His mission to make a difference in the lives of others.

"The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.'" (Luke 10:17 NIV)

- The Disciples experienced the presence and power of the Holy Spirit as they were on mission to spread the Gospel. Like them, we too experience more of God when we are involved in what He cares about.
- As we serve, bless, and share the Gospel with others, we experience the Spirit working through us to give others hope, causing our own hope to grow.

Discussion Questions: *(select those that best apply)*

- As you reflect on the weekend sermon, the main thoughts, and scriptures above, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why?
- Have you ever experienced God's presence as you made a difference in someone else's life? What happened and what did you learn from that?
- What are some of the distractions in your life that hinder you from experiencing God's presence consistently? What steps can you take to experience God's presence more regularly in your life?

Prayer: *(Partner up and pray for one another)*

- Pray for one another to remove distractions so that we can experience God's presence in our lives.
- Pray for one unreached person whom God wants to reveal His presence. Pray for opportunities to share His love with them.