



December 6, 2020

“God is with us”: In the Valley

Matthew 1:23

Christmas is more than a religious _____, but it is a _____ of life that turns our attention from the _____ stories of the world towards _____ - _____ through His son Jesus.

“**Incarnation**”: act of _____ whereby Christ took our _____ nature into union with His _____ person, and became man.

“God became flesh”

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” *Matthew 1:23*

The Valley:

1. Scene of _____
2. _____ and false _____
3. _____ and _____
4. _____

What joy for those whose strength comes from the Lord, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. **6** When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs. The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings. **7** They will continue to grow stronger, and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem. *Psalms 84:5-7*

“Each year every man in Israel must celebrate these three festivals: the **Festival of Unleavened Bread**, the **Festival of Harvest**, and the **Festival of Shelters**. On each of these occasions, all men must appear before the LORD your God at the place He chooses, but they must not appear before the LORD without a gift for Him. *Deuteronomy 16:16*

What we are focused on impacts the _____ as well as determines the _____.

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Even when I walk through the darkest valley....I will not be afraid... *Psalms 23:4*

When I am in a low place, figuratively speaking, I have a tendency to create _____ space for God.

“Instead of _____ about what God _____ done, how about _____ on where you are headed and what God has _____ and is doing.”

A disciple:

1. Has _____ the invitation to follow Christ
2. Is being _____ into the likeness of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit
3. Is _____ to the mission of Christ

In the Valley:

1. God reveals His _____.
2. We come to know God more _____.
3. We make important _____.

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” *Matthew 1:23*

Small Group questions

1. Have you there been a time in your life, when you felt like you were walking through a valley that was filled with suffering or pain? Do you mind sharing that experience(s)?
2. Why was the city of Jerusalem so important to the people of God in the Old Testament?
3. When we are walking through times of difficulty, what are some of the things that might capture our thoughts and distract us or cause us to take a detour?
4. Why is it important to dwell on the promises of God instead of our feelings?
5. What are some of the lessons that we can learn in the valley, that we may not learn otherwise?
6. What are ways that we can respond to others that might be walking through difficult

If you desire prayer, text Prayer, or if you have made a decision to follow Christ/desire to be baptized

text Decision to [352-358-7770](tel:352-358-7770). Our overseers are also available at the end of each service.

times?