



Discussion Questions and Practices

Discussion Questions

God's With-ness in Scripture

- From Exodus to Matthew, God promises to be “with” His people. Which of these promises (Exod. 25:8; Isa. 43:2; Matt. 1:23; Matt. 28:20) speaks most deeply to you right now, and why?
- How does knowing that Jesus is *with you* change the way you face struggles and fears in your daily life?

Luke 19:1–10 (Zacchaeus)

- Jesus didn't just speak to Zacchaeus from a distance; He went into his home. How does Jesus' decision to *stay with* Zacchaeus challenge our tendency to keep people at arm's length?
- Zacchaeus' transformation came not from a sermon but from Jesus' presence at his table. What does this teach us about the evangelistic power of simply being with people in their everyday lives?

2 Corinthians 4:1–10 (Treasure in Jars of Clay)

- Paul describes his life as a fragile clay jar where cracks reveal God's glory. How might our willingness to be transparent in weakness actually make Christ more visible to others?
- In what ways have you seen someone's struggles or honesty about their pain become a witness to Jesus? How might your own “cracks” become a place where His light shines through?

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (Sharing the Gospel and Our Lives)

- Paul says he shared not only the gospel but also his life. Why do you think both are essential for true evangelism?
- Who are the 1–4 people God may be calling you to share both the message of Jesus *and* the reality of your life with? What might that look like this week?

Spiritual Practice: “Practicing With-ness”

Step 1 — Transparent Prayer

- Begin the week with a Psalm of honesty (try Psalm 13 or Psalm 42).
- Pray openly before God about one place of struggle or shame you are tempted to hide. Name it in His presence.

Step 2 — Vulnerability with One Trusted Person

- Share one part of your story (a struggle, a fear, or a weakness) with a trusted brother or sister in Christ. Invite them to pray with you—this model’s authenticity inside the church.

Step 3 — Attentive Presence in Your Community

- Ask the Spirit to reveal **1–4 people** He is calling you to be with.
- Take one intentional step this week — a coffee, a walk, an invitation to your table — not just *for* them, but *with* them.

Step 4 — Evening Reflection

- Each night, pause and ask:
 1. Where did I sense God’s with-ness today?
 2. Did I move closer to someone else’s life, or did I hold them at a distance?