

DECEMBER 4, 2022 – CHRIS LINDBERG

WHEN GOD DISAPPOINTS YOU



Big Idea

Spiritual mountain top experiences are wonderful; but, we are all going to experience disappointments whether or not we walk with the Lord. There are times when we think we are all alone; however, the Christ child was named Immanuel, “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23). It does not say God might be with us. His name declares, GOD IS WITH US! We may ‘feel’ as if we are alone; but, feelings are not always truthful. God is our strength in times of weakness, our light in the darkness, our peace in the middle of the storm, and joy in the times of trouble. God promised that we would never have to experience the valley alone; but, to get through the valley our mind must be set on God. To hear God’s voice in the valley, we need to tune out the noise of the world.

Scripture

- Psalm 84:5-7 (NIV)
Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass **through the Valley of Baka**, they **make it a place of springs**; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from **strength to strength**, till each appears before God in Zion.
- Psalms 84:5 (NLT)
What joy for those whose strength comes from the Lord, who have **set their minds** on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
- Colossians 3:2 (NIV)
Set **your minds** on things above, not on earthly things.

Discussion Questions

- Psalm 84:7 says, “They go from strength to strength.” What do you think this means? Have you ever experienced such a transition in your walk with the Lord?
- Philippians 4:8 tells us the type of things we should think on. What are those things? Why is this verse important when we are experiencing the valley?
- Think about the most difficult valley you’ve walked through. How can you see God’s hand in that valley? What did you learn during that time?

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, we thank you for being with us during the difficult times. We know that you will never leave us or turn your back on us. Help us to observe those around us as we go through the valleys and look for opportunities to be an example of the hope that we have in You. Help us to be your hand extended to others who are going through valleys. If they do not know you, we pray that the Holy Spirit gives us the right words that will lead them to the cross.

Next Steps

This week, pray for the members of your group. Take time to consider how your group might be God’s hand extended to someone going through a valley. Also, think about the upcoming Legacy Offering, and ask God to show you what your part should be.

Leader Tip

Consider the effect of individuals in scripture who turned to God during times of great disappointment. Be intentional as you think about how God might use the testimony of your situations to build up faith in others, or cause others to commit their lives to the Lord.