



CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week #5 - How God Shows Up



GETTING STARTED

Spend some time checking in with each other. Any highs and lows since the last time you met?

Share about a time when someone showed up for you in an unexpected but powerful way?

THIS WEEK'S THEME

Have you ever gone through a difficult time and, looking back, realized that God had been with you the whole time even though you didn't recognize God's presence? What did that realization feel like?

Sometimes God shows up in ways that surprise us. Can you think of a time when God showed up in a way you weren't expecting? How did that change your perspective on your situation?

How do we stay trusting and hopeful when we don't feel like God is showing up in our lives the way we hope or expect?

In Ana Yancy's story, the community played a big role in showing up for her. How can we be more intentional in recognizing and being God's presence to others in our communities?

When facing personal or collective struggles, how can we see God in the midst of hardship? How does being part of a community of believers help us navigate those tough times?

What are some practices or habits you've cultivated to help you recognize God's presence in your life more clearly? Are there any new practices you'd like to try to strengthen that awareness?

Sometimes, God's presence is felt in quiet and stillness rather than in action. How comfortable are you with silence, and how might it help you tune into God's presence in a deeper way?

When you look around at your friends, family, or coworkers, how do you see God showing up in their lives, even if they might not recognize it themselves?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read [Luke 24:13-35](#)

“There is something familiar and something different about Jesus when he appears to his followers as they gather together. He is real and embodied—people touch him and he eats food. But he is not immediately recognizable and is able to disappear and reappear. This suggests that his followers encounter the same Jesus they had known before, but that he has also been transformed. He has been raised to a new kind of existence. Their recognition and understanding are not automatic; their eyes and minds need to be opened, and they need to have the Scriptures explained to them. Faith does not come naturally, for it requires an encounter and a reminder or a recognition coming from Jesus himself.”

Read more here:

<https://enterthebible.org/passage/luke-2413-49-appearances-of-the-resurrected-jesus>

How can we learn to see God's work in our lives by looking at how God has shown up in the past, as Jesus did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus?

In the Bible story, Jesus takes bread, breaks it, and gives it to the disciples, and it's in this moment that their eyes are opened. How does communion or the symbolism of bread help you connect with God's presence in your life?

“A main focus of Luke's Gospel is the nature of the salvation that Jesus Christ provides. Because Jesus encounters a wide variety of people in Luke, this Gospel offers a glimpse into the different facets of salvation—its spiritual, physical, and social dimensions. ... The Gospel of Luke aims to instruct and reassure its readers by telling the story of Jesus in an “orderly” manner, meaning that Luke's account is arranged and narrated in a way that attempts to express Jesus' significance. Instead of preaching a long sermon, the book tells a story about Jesus to describe God's faithfulness, God's salvation, and God's purposes for the world.”

Read more about the Gospel of Luke here:

<https://enterthebible.org/courses/luke/lessons/summary-of-luke>

PRAY

Ask how you can pray for each other this week. What prayer requests do you have?

Lord God, Bread of life. Come to us this Lenten season and sustain us with your love and grace. Amen.

TAKING IT HOME

In what parts of your everyday life could you be open to other people showing up for you, you showing up for other people, or God showing up?