

**“God is Closer than You Think” L. 2 Where Is God in My World? (Oct. 2, 4, 5, 6, 10 & 12<sup>th</sup>)**

1. Opening Prayer & Sharing (Low point & High point this week)
2. Share sometime in your life when it was so hard to believe that God was near you. Why did God allow you to face such uncertainty? What might God be trying to teach us during those times when God seems hidden and distant?
3. **Watch video** – Any comment on Rainbow days, Ordinary days, “Don’t Look at Me, God” days and Mystery days? Do you ‘sit at the feet of Jesus’ and ‘be covered by the dust of our Rabbi’?”
4. There is a time when we do not want God around and tempt to pray, “Don’t look at me, God”. In what ways do sin and distraction diminish your capacity to experience God?
5. Have you heard running on “spiritual habituation OR spiritual autopilot” mode? What are the differences between living on ‘spiritual autopilot’ and “being refreshed daily by God’s presence”?
6. Is absence of rainbow days God’s doing or our doing? Rainbow days are when we feel God’s presence vividly and see the fruits of God’s promises clearly. (Like Noah and rainbow- Genesis 6 & 9) What does God intend to show us through rainbow days? (Store up these precious days for the days when God is not as easy to see) What are our expectations of rainbow days? Are our expectations and God’s intention in rainbow days always identical?

+++++

<sup>1</sup> How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?  
<sup>2</sup> How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?  
How long will my enemy triumph over me? <sup>3</sup> Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, <sup>4</sup> and my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” and my foes will rejoice when I fall. <sup>5</sup> But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.  
<sup>6</sup> I will sing the LORD’s praise, for he has been good to me. (Psalm 13:1-6)

7. Read the scripture above. Have you ever felt this way(verses 1-4)? Look at verse 5-6. How did the awareness of God’s presence change David’s attitude? Have you experienced this kind of switch when you were reminded of God’s presence in difficult ordinary and mystery days? When God’s presence is not

center stage or more elusive, we are called to walk by faith not by sight. Do you have any memorable story living through ‘ordinary’ or ‘mystery’ days?

<sup>8</sup> Then **Adam & Eve** heard the sound of the LORD God as God was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they **hid from the LORD God** among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to Adam, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> Adam answered, “I heard you in the garden, and **I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.**” (**Genesis 3:8-10**)

<sup>2</sup> (God told Jonah) “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” <sup>3</sup> **But Jonah ran away from the LORD** and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to **flee from the LORD.** (**Jonah 1”2-3**)

8. Read the scriptures above. Like Adam, Even and Jonah, we have “Don’t’ look at me God” days and push God away. When we can’t see or feel God, our initial response often is to ask, “Where is God? Why is God hiding from me?” Have you ever asked yourself a more difficult question in those situations, “What have I done to separate myself from the presence of God?” How can we face our sins and remove them which blocks our relationship with God?

<sup>22</sup> Let us **draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings**, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us **hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for God who promised is faithful.** (**Hebrews 10:22-23**)

9. Read the scripture above. What are the things we can do to see and experience God in the ordinary?

10. Read together – **“God wants to be known by you. But you never know where He’ll turn up, or whom He will speak through, or what unlikely scenario God will use for His purpose.”**

**“God takes away the props so that we can begin to grow true devotion that is strong enough to carry on even when unaided by emotions.”**

11. Joys & concerns

12. Closing prayer