

Brad Bullock, Student Ministries Pastor

Matthew 1:22-23

BIG IDEA: God's greatest and most valuable _____ to his people
has always been his _____ with them.

*Examples from Scripture: Genesis 26:4; 31:3; Exodus 3:11-12; Joshua 1:9;
Psalm 23:4; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:3*

How can we more consistently experience the goodness of God's presence?

1. _____ his presence.

"I am _____" – Isaiah 41:10

2. _____ his presence.

"Surely I am with you _____" – Matthew 28:20

3. _____ his presence.

"_____ to God and he will come near to _____."

– James 4:8

Monday

READ: Genesis 3:8; Luke 2:1-21; Revelation 21:3

REFLECT: These passages reveal that God desires to dwell among man. In fact, all of the Bible reveals that God approaches man first before man even thinks to seek after Him. Not only is God our Immanuel, He is also our pursuer. He desires to be close to us!

RESPOND: How has God pursued you? Are there times when you've rejected Him? Why?

Tuesday

READ: Isaiah 41:10; Haggai 1:13

REFLECT: Being alone can be one of the most dreadful feelings we can experience. However, God promises us that, as His children, we never have to experience being alone. We are never left to defend ourselves or find comfort by ourselves. He is with us.

RESPOND: Are there things or people that you try to find comfort and companionship in apart from God? Spend some time thinking about how you can allow God's presence to saturate your life. Ask God to make you aware of His presence.

Wednesday

READ: Matthew 28:20b; Psalm 139:7-10

REFLECT: These passages reveal that God is with us always and everywhere. This is good news when we are scared, need strength and need comfort. However, His presence may come across to us as bad news if we are committing sin or not pursuing Him.

RESPOND: How aware are you of God's presence in your life? Does it change the way you think and what you do? Why or why not?

Thursday

READ: James 4:8; Revelation 3:20; Hebrews 10:19-22

REFLECT: These passages reveal an invitation by God to enter His presence. Rather than barring us from being near to Him, the Cross makes it possible for us to draw near. God wants to be near us. Therefore, we need to be intentional about setting aside time to be alone with Him!

RESPOND: What are the obstacles in your life that you allow to hinder time with God? If you don't have an "appointment" with God every day, then place one in your planner so you can be intentional about doing so. God wants to spend time with you!

Friday

READ: Psalm 27:1-4

REFLECT: David writes this psalm after not being in the temple for a lengthy period of time. He longs for the day when he can worship at the temple again. We can understand how he feels! While we can worship anywhere, there is something special about worshipping with God's people in a designated place and on a regular basis.

RESPOND: Are you longing to experience God's presence with God's people? How has your spiritual growth been impacted by the Pathway family not being able to physically worship together?