

## CAN I ASK THAT? | FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 12 | EASTER 7

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE: "IS JESUS ACTUALLY WITH ME?"

### OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, sometimes we question where you are, especially when nothing changes. We do not see answers to prayer, and circumstances or relationships do not improve. Remind us that you are here with us and for us, always holding us close. Open our eyes and hearts to see your presence because what we need is more of you! Thank you for your promise to be with us always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20) In your eternal name we pray, Amen.

### CONNECTING QUESTION

Is Jesus with you at the doctor's office, in the classroom, in raising children, in financial decisions, or in any life circumstance and relationship? Yes! Imagine Jesus and his resurrection power and peace in your situation. What difference does it make?

### SCRIPTURE READING

Read Aloud & Meditate on God's Word: Romans 8:31-39; Luke 24:44-53

### WATCH VIDEO

Video Presenter: Dr. Timothy Peters

### EXPLORE THE TEXT

*Invite the Holy Spirit to lead as you work through the questions in this guide. Cover what your time allows and encourage everyone to finish the guide on his or her own.*

1. How were the disciples able to grasp what Jesus said to them? (Luke 24:22-27) What instructions did he give them? (Luke 24:48-49). What then happened and what was their reaction? (Luke 24:50-53) Do you think that would have been yours? Explain.
2. Why is it important to you that Jesus' life and mission were anticipated beforehand (prophesied) in the Old Testament? (See Matthew 1:20-23; Luke 4:16-21)
3. What had Jesus promised the disciples while he was still with them? (See John 14:15-17; John 14:26; John 15:26-27; John 16:7) Even though you cannot see or touch Jesus physically, what did he give you to ensure you know he is with you always? Why did Jesus need to return to be with his Father in heaven?
4. List the blessings you receive in Romans 8:31-39. What fears or questions do you have about God loving you and working for your good?

5. The earliest liturgies of the Christian church contained the salutation, "The Lord be with you!" and the response, "And also with you!" "With" is a preposition that means beside, together, for, accompanied by, in the same place as someone or something. It implies interaction, association, connection, fellowship, and companionship. For you, what is the underlying prayer that you are speaking to each other? How would you say it in today's language?
6. What makes it difficult for you to believe Jesus is with you or to experience his presence? Name or think of a situation, relationship, or circumstance in which you long for the presence of Jesus. Fill in the blank and read this sentence several times using different phrases. Jesus, you are Emmanuel ("God-with-me")...beside me...accompany me...support me in \_\_\_\_\_.

### **BELIEVING JESUS IS WITH ME**

"When all is said and done, the last word is Immanuel – God-with-us." (Isaiah 8:10 MSG)

From the beginning, in good times and bad, the Lord promises to be with us...always! This week, look up a verse each day and write down what the Father and Jesus say about being with you. Describe how that gives you hope.

See Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 145:18; Matthew 18:20; Matthew 28:20; Revelation 21:3-4.

Adele A. Calhoun in "Spiritual Disciplines" suggests the following to help you remain near to Jesus. Also check out Redeemer's Discipleship Pathway and the ways of following Jesus to experience his presence and power:

<https://www.redeemerconnect.com/discipleship/explore/detail>

- ▶ W - Worship God (Sabbath Keeping)
- ▶ O - Open myself to God
- ▶ R – Relinquish the false self and idols of my heart – Confession and Communion
- ▶ S - Share my Life with Others (Life Groups)
- ▶ H – Hear the Word
- ▶ I – Incarnate Christ's love for the World (SHAPE, Serve)
- ▶ P – Pray to God

### **SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Read about two mothers in the Bible who discovered God was with them even in difficult circumstances. Hagar in Genesis 16 and Sarah in Genesis 16 & 21.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Jesus, what an extraordinary gift you are to each one of us! May your Holy Spirit help us absorb your presence through kind and affirming words, loving touches, the Word, Holy Communion, and fellowship with other believers. Lord Jesus, as we grow to be more in tune with you, let us carry and share your gracious love wherever we go. In your abiding name we pray, Amen.

*Our Father ...*

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