

Like

Part 4: The Valley

INTRODUCTION

Mountaintop experiences are great in life. The day we get married; the moments we reach a milestone in our career, graduation day or just a very fun season are all examples of mountaintops. At the same time, we all have moments in the valley. It might be a health situation, a job loss, the end of a relationship. We all know what it's like to walk in the valley. When it comes to knowing what God is like, these seasons in the valley can teach us a lot. In many ways, the valleys can teach us more of what God is like in ways the mountaintops ever can.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a mountaintop moment, a favorite memory, or season of your life?
2. Describe a season in the valley. When was it and what was it like?
3. *Read 1 Peter 1:6-7.* How does God use the valleys in our lives?
4. Jeff talked about the difference in mountaintop and valley moments. On the mountaintops, we experience the blessings of God. In the valleys, we experience the presence of God. In what ways did you experience the presence or closeness of God during the valleys?
5. *Read Psalm 23:1-4.* Talk about how this describes what God is like.
6. Close your discussion time by praying for someone in your group who is currently going through a valley.

MOVING FORWARD

God wants to lead you and provide for you. He has shown us what He is like through the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the good shepherd who laid down His life for us. He has proven that He is trustworthy and all powerful. Ask yourself and others if you are following the shepherd.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

-Psalm 23:4

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

-Romans 5:2-5