

Sunday, December 1, 2019 Dave Michel Stepping Stones Community Church

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us." Matthew 1:23 NLT

1. We may enjoy God on the <u>mountaintops</u>, but we find <u>strength</u> in the <u>valley</u>

⁵ What joy for those whose strength comes from the LORD, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
⁶ When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs. The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings. ⁷ They will continue to grow stronger, and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem.
Psalm 84:5-7

2. Sometimes we have to travel through

the <u>valley of weeping</u> to make it to the city of peace

- The valley can be the pathw
- The valley can be the <u>pathway</u> to a place of <u>peace</u>
- <u>Set your mind</u> on God and his presence because what you <u>think about</u> matters

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **Colossians 3:2** NIV And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. **Philippians 4:8** NLT

- 3. You may be in the valley now, but the valley is not your final destination
- 4. God never promised that you wouldn't go through the valley, he promised that you wouldn't go through the valley <u>alone</u>

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. **Psalm 23:4** NLT

Next Steps:
□ Invite a friend to "God With Us"
Commit to put my focus on God's love and presence when I'm "In the Valley"
Trust in God's strength in my life to carry me through the hard times
Embrace the path of life that God has me on even when it goes through the valley
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