

Group Questions- *I Want To Believe*: Week 1

09/24/23 – Pastor Kirby

Getting to Know Me Questions:

- What's a show you have "binge watched", you just couldn't get enough of it?
- What was your favorite show as a child? Why?

Into the Bible Questions:

- What's something from this week's teaching that you learned, that stood out, interesting etc?
- Pastor Kirby gave us 3 Characteristics of God (God's heart is always loving-God's ways are always higher than our ways-God's presence is enough). Of these 3 which is the hardest for you to believe and/or hold onto? Why is it difficult for you to believe this?
- **READ:** Romans 8:35-39
- What does it look or feel like, for you, when you experience the love and presence of God? Can you give some examples?
- What is a valley you're in right now, or have been in the past and you couldn't see, feel or struggled to believe God was with you?
- **Read:** Psalm 23
- **LISTEN:** Pull up the song (youtube, spotify, prime music etc) "Valley's Fill First" by Caedmon's Call (lyrics on the back) – Listen more than once if needed.
- Describe your thoughts and imagery you had as you listened to the song?
- **READ:** Colossians 3:12-17
- If you are a follower of Jesus, we are to take off all the things that separate us from God and they are replaced by the characteristics of God. What are those characteristics?
- How does knowing these characteristics of God, help you demonstrate them yourself?
- How do they help you understand the presence of God in life?
- Are there any areas in your life where you still don't understand God's plans or how He's involved? How can we pray about this together?

Application:

- Memorize Psalm 23
- In what area of your life do you struggle to understand God and the things taking place? How can we pray about this together?
- How can we help each other with it?

Verse 1

This is a valley
That I'm walking through
And it feels like forever
Since I've been close to You
My friends up above me
Don't understand why I struggle like I do
My shadow's my only, only companion
And at night he leaves too

Chorus

Down in the valley, dying of thirst
I'm down in the valley
It seems that I'm at my worst
My consolation is that You baptized this earth
Well, down in the valley, valleys fill first

Verse 2

Down in this wasteland
I miss the mountaintop view
But it's here in this valley
That I'm surrounded by You
Though I'm not here by my will
It's where Your view is most clear
So I stay in this valley
If it takes 40 years

Chorus

Down in the valley, dying of thirst
When I'm down in the valley
It seems that I'm at my worst
My consolation is that You baptized this earth
Well, down in the valley, valleys fill first

Bridge

It's like that long Saturday
Between Your death and the rising day
When no one wrote a word
Wondered is this the end
But You were down there in the well
Saving those that fell
Bringing them to the mountain again

Chorus

Though I'm down in the valley, dying of thirst
When I'm down in the valley
It seems that I'm at my worst
My consolation is that You baptized this earth
Well, down in the valley, valleys fill first
When You pour on Your water, valleys fill first

I want to believe, but

Week 1

9/24/23

On-demand God doesn't exist

God doesn't exist to serve us. We exist to serve God.

If God is not on-demand God, who is God?

3 Characteristics of God

1. God's heart is always loving.

Romans 8:35, 37-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. God's ways are always higher than our ways.

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the Lord.

⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

3. God's presence is enough.

Psalms 23:4

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

"Valley's Fill First" by Caedmon's Call

From the album *Long Line of Leavers*

Verse 1

This is a valley
That I'm walking through
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Chorus
Down in the valley, dying of thirst
I'm down in the valley
It seems that I'm at my worst
My consolation is that You baptized this earth
Well, down in the valley, valleys fill first

Colossians 3:12-14

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.