



“God with Us...In the Desert”

God with Us series, 12.17.23

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Your **deepest need** becomes a **gift** when it drives you to **depend on God**.

When [the Magi] had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Matthew 2:13-16

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.” So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets.

Matthew 2:19-23

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

Psalms 139:7-10

You don’t have to **understand** what God is **up to** to **believe** that he’s **with you!**

Discussion questions

1. What did you think about the desert when you first moved to the Tri-Cities? Where do you go to get away from the desert?

2. Read Matthew 2:13-16 and imagine you are Joseph or Mary. How would you feel about the prospect of heading to Egypt?

3. Dreams play an important role in this story. Talk about a dream you believe God has given you. How did you know it was from God? What did you do about it?

4. Read Matthew 2:19-23. Looking back, what do you believe God has spared you from?

5. Read Psalm 139:7-10 and think about where you are right now in life. According to David, how does God deliver you through your “desert”?

6. How can the group pray for you this week?