

God's presence is greater than my independence.

"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried." —G.K. Chesterton

Ephesians 1:15-23

1. Spiritual wisdom.

James 3:13-17

2. Confident hope.

Romans 5:3-5

3. Incredible power.

Ephesians 3:18-21

How could you move from just exploring life with God to fully experiencing it?

How do you see God working in you to accomplish infinitely more than you can imagine?

Small Group Outline & Discussion Questions

Celebrate and Care:

Have each person share a high and low from this past week.

Review:

God's presence is greater than my independence.

Open Up:

You're out of town and your car gets a flat tire. What's your level of independence?

- Pop the trunk, pull out the spare and jack, and fix it.
- Wait until a kind person pulls over to offer their help.
- Call AAA.

Discuss:

Choose one or two questions for your group to discuss as time allows.

- ▶ What does it look like to go from just exploring life with God to fully experiencing life with God?
- ▶ "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried." In what ways have you found the "Christian ideal" difficult, but worth pursuing?
- ▶ Read James 3:13-17. What jumps out at you from this scripture? What does spiritual wisdom look like according to James?
- ▶ The world experienced many disruptions this year, shaking the confidence in systems, routines, and ways of life. As believers, how can we point ourselves and others to the confident hope we have in Christ?

Engage:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with these questions then share your thoughts.

How have you seen God work in your heart and life in ways you never imagined?

Pray:

Pray for someone specific in your life (your Small Group, a family member, a friend, etc.) to receive spiritual wisdom, confident hope, and understanding of the incredible power God has for us.