



Next to Me | November 2, 2016

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Finding balance between space and support can be a challenge in friendships, marriages, parenting, and faith.

Thankfully God walks this line with us to perfection...allowing us freedom and yet always being next to us when we call.

Key Verse

Jeremiah 23:23-24 (CEV)

I am everywhere—both near and far, in heaven and on earth. There are no secret places where you can hide from me.

Discussion

God meets us in unique places. Throughout history there are countless examples of God showing up in music. Music stirs us, it unifies us, it inspires us, comforts us, and it can bridge gaps that nothing else can.

1. What is your favorite song or type of music and why?
2. Is there a song that has deeper meaning to you than it may to someone else?

If we walk through this world with a different lens we may see God, hear God, and experience God in new things. In Emeli Sande's song *Next to Me*, she talks about someone who isn't in the unhealthy things we seek and crave, but rather someone who is always there when we call...always "next to me."

3. Where are some of the places you feel God has not necessarily been a part of in your life or in this world?
4. In what people, places, and experiences has God shown up when you were not expecting Him?

Parents of newlyweds struggle finding the balance between continued support and space to grow. With God, it is no different. God says in Jeremiah 23:23-24 that he is always close, but also far away. We want space to make our own decisions and yet we want God to be next to us when we need Him. He allows us space to learn and grow, but we can rest in the promise that he is there when we call.

5. In what places have you excluded God because you knew what was happening wasn't a place you wanted him next to you?
6. What are some ways that you could more intentionally invite God to be next to you more often?

What's Next?

It is an odd juxtaposition having space from God but having Him there when we call. There are times where we ask Him why he was not there to prevent us from mistakes, there are times when we wonder what he is up to, and there are times when we want Him to be a little more distant so we can do things on our own. This week as you go through life, consider the unhealthy places in which you attempt to exclude God. Also, consider the places that God is waiting to meet you if you look, listen, and ask. Try to see the world through a different lens this week and see where God is waiting for you to notice Him.