

## **Week 4: God is Near**

*No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. John 14:18*

*And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20b*

### **Read:**

Acts 1, 2

Jesus spent time with his disciples for the next 40 days after he died on the cross. Though he was preparing to leave Earth, Jesus told his disciples that he would always be with them through the Holy Spirit. When the time came for him to return to God the Father in heaven, he told his disciples to “be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Jesus then ascended to heaven, but in return, he soon sent his Holy Spirit down upon the believers for the help they need and as a reminder that he would always be with them.

Jesus teaches us in this story that he is always with us through the Holy Spirit. The disciples had no reason to worry, even if they didn’t quite understand what was happening or what Jesus meant. All they had known was life with Jesus face-to-face, so it must have been shocking and even scary to see him leave Earth. But still, they trusted. Even at our lowest moments when we feel alone or even abandoned, God’s promise of the Holy Spirit tells us that he is with us and will never leave us. We can continue to seek guidance, direction, and comfort from God because he will be with us forever. He is trustworthy and we can believe in his promise.

### **Questions to think about:**

1. When are times you feel the loneliest?
2. How can you remember to praise God and seek comfort from him when you feel alone?
3. Is there anyone in your life right now who is struggling with loneliness? If so, how can you reach out to them?