

SHARING OUR STORIES: WHO AND WHERE ARE WE?

Romans 8:38-39, Psalm 23:4 Joshua 1:9 Matthew 1:23; 28:20

MY STORY ABOUT MY PERSONAL JOURNEY

How we came to Journey

How I got into ministry

How I became a Christian

MY THOUGHTS ABOUT JOURNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

MY SOURCE OF COMFORT DURING OUR CHALLENGING TIME: GOD IS WITH US

Romans 8:38-39 *“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.”*

Psalm 23:4 *“Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.”*

Matthew 28:20 *“I will be with you always, even until the end of the age.”*

Hebrews 13:5 *“I will never leave you or forsake you.”*

Joshua 1:9 *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

Isaiah 41:10 *“Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not anxiously look about you for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Surely I will help you. Surely I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*

Rev. 3:20 *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”*

MY INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW SERMON SERIES

SOME QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DEVOTION:

1. We all have our stories. Your story is the story of your own life and it can be told in a variety of ways: from a 10-20 minute testimony that we hear shared at one's baptism, to a quick 30 second story that you might've shared recently over a meal. Your story might be how you met someone, or how you chose a particular school, hobby or life path (like marriage/career) or how you used to get into trouble as a child. Your story might be about how you became a Christian, when you began attending Journey Evangelical Church or a decision you had made to change something about your life. When was the last time you shared a version of your story to someone and what was it about?
2. You cannot enjoy a relationship with another person without both exchanging and contributing to each other's stories. Why do you suppose this is? (Why did Pastor Curt feel the need to share his story with Journey on his first "official" Sunday?)
3. Look at the Bible verses on the opposite page. No matter where you might find yourself during this time in your life, there is no greater truth to bank on than to know that God is with you. God is with you. Among the names God chooses to name His Son is, "Immanuel" which means, "God with us."

You can know that God is with you through various ways:

- 1) You may have a vivid awareness of Him, even to the point of "hearing" His voice
- 2) God may be providing for you in various ways
- 3) God may be currently empowering and strengthening you for this season.

How do you know God is with you at this time? And that God is with JEC?