

God with Us Brings Hope

Day 3 HOPE OVERCOMES FEAR

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Fear comes in many forms, but it often threatens to overtake us most as uncertainty. Will our plans succeed – or fail? Will (fill in the blank) happen – or not? Will that person come through - or let us down? Worry creeps in like a slow-moving storm, and if we let it, it can build to hurricane force.

God understands this human tendency. It's no coincidence that the Bible is filled with so many versions of this encouragement: don't be afraid; don't worry. The beauty of these messages is that they are backed by the rock-solid promise of God's presence – and filled through the faithfulness of God with Us. As God told Joshua back in the Old Testament, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go"(Joshua 1:9).

Mary must have grappled with this kind of fearful uncertainty as she awaited the birth of Jesus. Young, vulnerable, and forced into a long journey away from home as the arrival of her baby drew near, she must've continually faced questions, doubts, and fears. In the midst of it all, she must have constantly remembered the words from the angel who visited her: "Do not be afraid, Mary" (Luke 1:30). We can find similar hope as we focus - and refocus - on God's similar promises. No matter what tomorrow holds, no matter what fears or worries we face, God will never leave us or let us down. He is with us - always.

What is troubling you today? What scripture will be your meditation or mantra to focus on in the face of fear and worry?