

Youth



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the video's listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Love

Play the Mercy Me music video and use these questions to facilitate discussion.

- What are your thoughts on this song and it's message?
- Have you ever felt like God's presence was away from you? Explain.
- Tell of a time when you really felt God's presence? What was it like? When you feel in God's presence, how does it change the way you behave? How does it inspire you to face difficult situations?
- How does feeling God's presence help reinforce God's love for you? How does God's love feel when you do not feel God's presence? Explain.

✔ Promises

Read Isaiah 43:1-7 and watch the *Bible Background Video* for this session.

- What images or phrases stood out to you in this passage? Why? What does this passage say about God's presence? What does it say about God's love? Do you think the two of those are related? Why or why not?
- If you were in exile, how would these words bring comfort to you?
- Do these words promise that things will be easy to the Israelites? Why or why not? Why is this a more difficult lesson to remember during the hard times of our lives?

✔ Presence

Play the Jason Upton music video.

- What images or words in this video reminded you of this week's scripture?
- Do you ever feel like the writer of this song? Why or why not?

- Do you think it is okay to question God's presence? Why or why not? Why is it so easy to forget God's presence when we are suffering?
- What type of situations seem as though God has abandoned us? How do you know God's presence is still with us? How does knowing God's presence help to take away our fear?

Close with prayer.

By Don Breedon

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