



October 18, 2026
Dr. Rick Mandl
rick@eaglerockbaptist.com

3. When God Makes His Will Clear. . .

_____ God's _____

v. 24-25

Matthew 1:18-25

1. When Life Doesn't Make Sense. . .

_____ God's _____

v. 18-20

2. When Sin Separates Us From God. . .

_____ God's _____

v. 20-23

God With Us

Faith is not demonstrated only by

_____ we _____

Faith is demonstrated by

_____ we _____ because we _____

Memory Verse

"You are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

MY NEXT STEP IS. . .

- ☐ Memorize Matthew 1:21
- ☐ Receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior for the first time today
- ☐ Trust God with what I cannot understand
- ☐ Obey God in the next thing He has made clear
- ☐ Get the most out of today's teaching by attending my Life Group this week



Invite a friend, family member or
co-worker to join you next week at ERBC!
www.EAGLEROCKBAPTIST.com

God With Us



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3. When God Makes His Will Clear. . .

Obey God's Word

v. 24-25

Matthew 1:18-25

1. When Life Doesn't Make Sense. . .

Trust God's Plan

v. 18-20

2. When Sin Separates Us From God. . .

Receive God's Savior

v. 20-23

God With Us

Faith is not demonstrated only by

What we Believe

Faith is demonstrated by

What we Do because we Believe

Memory Verse

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because he will save his people from their sins."

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Discussion Questions - Week #4

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the weekend sermon, “God With Us,” summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time, or that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

Do you plan to take any practical steps this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

Are you someone who likes to have a detailed plan, or are you comfortable figuring things out as you go? Why?

Who is someone whose advice you trust, even when you don’t fully understand their reasoning? What has earned your trust?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Following their deliverance from Egypt, the Israelites found themselves trapped between the Red Sea and Pharaoh’s approaching army. From their perspective, the situation seemed hopeless. Yet God was working to accomplish something they couldn’t possibly have anticipated.

Read Exodus 14:10–31.

What stands out to you about the Israelites’ response when they saw Pharaoh’s army approaching?

In verses 15–18, what does God reveal about His purposes in this situation? How does His perspective differ from that of the Israelites?

Despite witnessing the ten plagues in Egypt, the Israelites responded with fear when Pharaoh’s army approached. Why do you think it was difficult for them to trust God? What do you find significant about their response in verse 31?

What does this account teach us about trusting God when our circumstances don’t make sense?

Can you think of a time when you struggled to understand what God was doing in your life?

When you face circumstances that don’t make sense, how can remembering God’s faithfulness in the past help you trust Him in the present?

2. After a long night of fishing without catching anything, Simon Peter encounters Jesus, who gives him some unexpected instructions. Peter’s response provides a powerful example of what it means to trust and obey Jesus, even when His instructions don’t seem to make sense.

Read Luke 5:1–11.

Imagine yourself in Peter’s shoes. After fishing all night without catching anything, how might you have responded to Jesus’ instructions to go back out and let down the nets?

What do you think motivated Peter to follow Jesus’ instructions in verse 5, despite his own experience suggesting otherwise?

What did Peter get right in his response to Jesus in verse 8, and what did he get wrong?

After what may have been the most successful day of their fishing careers, Peter and his partners left everything to follow Jesus. What does their decision reveal about what they valued most? How might their example challenge our own priorities?

Is there an area of your life where you know what God is asking you to do, but you’ve been hesitant to obey? What might taking a step of obedience look like?

FOR PRACTICE

☞ Trusting God isn’t always easy, especially when life doesn’t make sense. Yet remembering His faithfulness in the past can help us trust Him in the present. This week, take a few minutes each day to reflect on a time when God demonstrated His faithfulness in your life. Thank Him for what He has done, and consider one practical way you can demonstrate your trust in Him through obedience today.

SHARE IT

☞ Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

PRAYER REQUESTS

☞ Take some time this week to pray for our Children’s & Youth Ministry. Pray for the impact they’re having on kids and their families. Pray for the leaders and volunteers, that they would be blessed in and through their service and encouraged by the Kingdom difference they are making.