



## “God with us—Past”

“Does anyone know where the love of God goes when the waves turn the minutes to hours?” Gordon Lightfoot in “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald”

**Question:** Where was God when \_\_\_\_\_ happened to me?

**Question:** Is there really any evidence that God was with me in my past?

**In the eternal past: God was with us in the pre-incarnate Christ.**

- He is eternal:
- He is the second Person of the Godhead:
- He submitted to death for our sins before creation:
- He created the universe:

**In the Nation of Israel’s past: God was with us in the prophecies and types.**

- Genesis 3:15, 21 and 22:1-14:
- Moses:
- Passover lamb:
- The Rock:
- Joshua:
- The sacrificial system:
- In the fiery furnace:

**In our personal past: God was with us in every moment and place.**

- Hebrews 13:5:
- Acts 7:54-56:
- In our most battering moments:
- In our most shameful moments:
- In our most idolatrous moments:
- In our most distracted moments:
- In our most cherished moments:
- Zephaniah 3:17 and Romans 8:31-39 and Ephesians 5:29, and John 15:9:
- He cherishes us—how could He then abandon us?

**A little girl wanders through the crowd...but she is not alone.**

**Please be sure:** God did not leave you alone and He does not leave you alone.

# Walking Papers

“Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.”

**Please be sure:** God did not leave you alone and He does not leave you alone.

Please take some time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas:

- **Today.** Please reflect on some of the most defining moments of the past: times of battering, shame, idolatry, distraction, and joy. Can you see ways in which you have defined yourself by those moments? Can you see that God calls you to define yourself as a person who is cherished by God and who continually lives in the presence of God?
- **Monday.** Please reflect on God being for you before you existed in eternity past. He was crucified for your sin and that was decided before the foundation of the world. What does that truth stir up in you?
- **Tuesday.** Please reflect on God being with Israel in the past. In what ways do the Passover and the sacrificial system and the person of Joshua (“savior”) and Jesus with the three men in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3) speak to you?
- **Wednesday.** Please read Genesis 3:15, 22 and Genesis 22:1-14. How do these passages support the claim that “God is both with us and for us?”
- **Thursday.** Please read Hebrews 13:5 and Acts 7:54-56. How do these passages support the claim that “God is both with us and for us?”
- **Friday.** Please read Zephaniah 3:17 and Ephesians 5:29. How do these passages support the claim that “God is both with us and for us?”
- **Saturday.** Please read Romans 8:1, 31-39 and John 15:9. How do these passages support the claim that “God is both with us and for us?”

*“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Jesus*

*Note for Connection Groups:* The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: [www.cypressbible.org](http://www.cypressbible.org) and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.