



GOD'S PRESENCE IS A PRESENT

BY BARRY SHAFER

Quick Backdrop

When we're going through difficult circumstances, we often want to be removed from those circumstances. And we want to be removed NOW! But God might have other plans for those difficult circumstances. In fact, when God called someone to an assignment throughout the Old Testament—an assignment that would certainly be full of difficult circumstances—the "someone's" would often toss out objections to try to avoid those circumstances. But God's responses to their objections are words that helped them say "yes" and they are words that can encourage us today in our difficult times.

Digging In (God, Show Me!)

The passages below are three situations in which God called leaders to join in His mission to redeem a lost world. As you read each passage from your Bible or Bible app, look for the answers to the questions in the chart that follows.

Moses: Exodus 3:6-12

Gideon: Judges 6:11-16

Jeremiah: 1:4-8

QUESTIONS	MOSES	GIDEON	JEREMIAH
What was the assignment or mission?			
What was the leader's response to God's invitation?			
What was God's response to what the leader said?			

2 Taking It Inward (God, Teach Me!)

What common thread do you see in the responses of the leaders to God's mission?

What common thread do you see in what God said back to the leaders?

What has God been saying to you over the past few days? Take a moment to write any "missions" that God might be calling you to be a part of.

Do you have any obstacles in saying "yes" to God's invitation? Write these in the space below.

3 Putting Into Practice (God, Change Me!)

Spend some time meditating on words of God when he responded to the objections of Moses, Gideon, and Jeremiah. Listen to Him say those same words to you.

Now read John 14 from your Bible and circle the phrase "with you" whenever it appears. Then meditate on the assurances Jesus gives. Focus on the promise we can count on when going through difficult circumstances: He promises to be with you. That's a gift. His presence is a present.