

TREES LIGHTS
& PRESENCEDISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

1. Share about a friend of yours who has walked with you through a tough time and how it impacted you.
2. When you think about Jesus as “**Friend**” what does that mean to you personally, and how does it change the way you approach prayer or difficult times? Is there anything challenging to you about labeling Jesus as “**Friend**”?
3. In the past, what are some ways you have felt Jesus present with you? (This might be in joyous times, ordinary times or difficult times.)
4. Have you ever felt Jesus "walk with you in the dark" or "sit with you" in a moment of despair? What was that experience like?
5. Read **Hebrews 4:14-16** together. What stands out to you as you think about Jesus "companionship" you? The way verse 15 is written in the original language gets at this idea that the trials and temptations that Jesus went through, not only impacted Him then, but they have a “**permanent result**” lasting to today. Talk about what that might mean for us today.
6. Take time for anyone in the group who wants to, to share what sadness/grief/pain/hurt they are holding this Christmas.
7. The community prayer we prayed together asks that we not "shy away from them or push down their grief," but instead "**sit with them**." Talk as a group about how you might be present with those in your life (or in this group) who are experiencing heartache. Try to identify a practical way you (as a small group or as an individual), can be better at "sitting with" our sisters and brothers who are mourning or struggling, rather than trying to fix them?