

But Why?
Week 2
When God Feels Far Away

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. ... You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.
Psalm 16:8-9, 11 NLT

But I cry to you for help, LORD; in the morning my prayer comes before you. Why, LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me?
Psalm 88:13-14 NIV

So they asked [Jesus], "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"
John 6:30 NIV

... "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. ..."
Matthew 13:14-15 NIV

"From one man [God] made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us."
Acts 17:26-27 NIV

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD ...
Jeremiah 29:13-14 NIV

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Are you more likely to make decisions based on feelings or on logic? Why do you think that is?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Read **Psalm 16:8-9, 11**. How can you remember God is always with you, even if you don't feel His presence?
- If we always felt God, we wouldn't need faith. What are some ways you can seek God, regardless of your feelings?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Have you ever felt far from God? Talk about how that experience impacted your faith.
- Challenges, hard times, and suffering can bring us closer to God. Share a time when you saw God working, even if you didn't sense His presence.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, it can be really frustrating when we feel far from You. Thank You for being bigger than our feelings and for always being with us. Build our faith as we go throughout this week and reveal any places where we've allowed our hearts to harden. Please help us seek You this week. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Sometimes the best place to experience God is in the simple moments of your day. This week, ask God to make His presence clear to you, even in the little things.