

# When God Feels Absent P2

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## We would like your feedback!

Please answer this brief survey to help us provide you with a better small group experience!

<https://forms.gle/1miQBLuCAeKLC1qc7>

## REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will search my heart to see if there's any way I've been trying to put God in a box.
- I will wait, and not despair, not give up; I will not quit when God feels absent.

## SERMON SUMMARY

What do you do when God feels absent? When you have problems and they're not going away. And worse than that you feel like you can't hear from God. You pray, and it's like you don't sense anything coming back. You don't know what God wants you to do. He doesn't seem to be giving any guidance, help, or answers. What do you do then?

Israel had a lot of experience with this problem. So if you ever feel this, you're not alone. In this message we will walk through four practices that the Israelites would engage in and hang on to when it felt like God was far away.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is complaining to God an important practice during times when He feels absent?
2. How can surrounding ourselves with the right people help us during times when God feels absent?

3. In what ways can being still and present with God help us when we feel He is distant?
4. Why is remembering past experiences with God important during times when He feels absent?
5. How does the story of the ark's return to the Israelites demonstrate God's determination to be with His people?
6. Why is complaining to God an important practice during times when He feels absent?
7. How can surrounding ourselves with the right people help us during times when God feels absent?

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE**

- Psalm 44:11-12
- Psalm 44:17
- Psalm 44:23
- Job 2:11-13
- Psalm 46:10
- 1 Kings 19:4
- Psalm 77:11-12
- 1 Samuel 5:3-6

## **Next Steps**

- I will complain to God about my problems and pain.
- I will pray prayers that are connected to what's going on inside of me.
- I will choose who to lean on with care.
- I will join a small group and develop relationships with people who will care for me in times of trouble.

## Prayer Request(s)

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