

# Trusting When God Seems Absent



## WEEK TWO

### MON 11/15

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Psalm 55:22
- ✓ THOUGHT God carries our burdens. "Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken." [NIV] As you begin a new week, take a moment to be mindful of the cares and burdens that preoccupy you. Can you set aside an extra prayer time each day to focus on sharing your feelings about these things with God? Consider sharing verbally or through journaling. At the end of the week, note if your perspective has changed about these burdens.
- ✓ PRAYER God, you are my rock. Remind me daily to lay my burdens on you because you care about me. Thank you. Amen.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### TUES 11/16

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 31:8
- ✓ THOUGHT God will not fail you. "Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you." [NLT] Even when things seem overwhelming or impossible, we can be confident that our God does not abandon us. Feeling alone is scary, but it isn't reality. The love of God and God's comforting Spirit is always with us and will not fail.
- ✓ PRAYER Faithful God, my feelings sometimes lead me astray. I want to build my life around your promises so my faith remains strong through all life's mountains and valleys. Amen.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### WED 11/17

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Romans 15:13
- ✓ THOUGHT Hope in the Lord! "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." [CEB] The Spirit of God in us is our source of hope. When we spend time in connecting with God, we will be able to center ourselves and experience the peace and joy that God wants for us to enjoy.
- ✓ PRAYER God, I want to be filled with your Spirit so that my hope overflows. Help me find time to connect with you today. Amen.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Trusting When God Seems Absent



## WEEK TWO

### THURS 11/18

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Luke 1:37
- ✓ THOUGHT Open your mind. "Nothing is impossible for God." [CEB] When we can't see the way forward in a situation, we can choose to assume there is no way, or we can choose to assume God will make a way. God works in ways that are beyond our comprehension, and great faith is required for us to stay positive and hopeful in the face of the unknown.
- ✓ PRAYER God, I want to be the type of person who assumes the best and hopes for things that are greater than what I can accomplish alone. Open my eyes to the possibilities that exist because of your great and mighty power at work in the world. Show me how I can partner with you. Amen.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### FRI 11/19

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 5:7
- ✓ THOUGHT Faith is key! "We live by faith and not by sight." [CEB] We serve a God we cannot physically see, so faith is an obvious requirement for our spiritual journey. The more we allow faith to drive our behavior, the less we will need to see evidence of God to know that he is working.
- ✓ PRAYER God, when it isn't obvious how you are working in my life, help me to push away my doubts and trust without seeing. You are good, and I believe that truth even when I can't see past my difficult circumstances. Amen.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### SAT 11/20

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Matthew 28:20
- ✓ THOUGHT We are called to obedience. "Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." [NLT] Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he reminded the disciples of the importance of obedience. In times of waiting or uncertainty, we can demonstrate our faith by continuing to live the way Jesus taught us to live. Our obedience is evidence of our faith!
- ✓ PRAYER God, give me the resolve to do what I know to be right even when I am frustrated by my circumstances. Thank you for being my source of strength and endurance. Amen.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### GROUP GUIDE

- ✓ **PRAYER**    **God, we acknowledge that you are already here. May our hearts be open to your presence and direction. Amen.**
  
- ✓ **BIG IDEA**    **Our God is mighty and loves us fiercely. We can have hope even in the driest times of our lives that God never leaves us. Even in the difficult times of waiting, we can know that God's love for us doesn't change.**
  
- ✓ **READ**        **1 Samuel Chapters 5-6**
  
- ✓ **DISCUSS**
  - In the conclusion to last week's story, we find that God makes a way back to the Israelites, but it wasn't immediate. There was a lot of waiting involved and we can only imagine how that felt for them. Describe a time you felt like you were stuck with nothing to do but wait for a change in your circumstances. How did you stay hopeful during that time?
  
  - Our tendency is to try to keep things in our lives under control and predictable. God's fierce love is sometimes described as untamable. What would it look like to loosen your grip on a situation that troubles you?
  
  - Jesus ruffled a lot of feathers because his ways were unexpected. Some were so angered by this out-of-the-norm influence that they tried to cage it and control it to the point of ultimately putting him to death. But we know that was not the end of the story. How does the resurrection of Jesus characterize the nature of God? In your life, do you expect God to do things that are bigger than your understanding, or do you try to keep God in a box?
  
  - Community is essential to our faith. When we are there to encourage others and can receive that same encouragement, we are strengthened and better equipped to press on through dry times. Discuss how this has played out in your life.
  
- ✓ **Pray**         **God, we thank you for this community of people who come together to help and strengthen each other. Guide us and help deepen our faith as we learn how to navigate through difficulties and trials. Give us the perseverance to maintain hope in your power that is working in our lives. Amen.**