

Finding God's Presence When You Feel His Absence

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Romans 8:35, 37)

Session 6: When God Disappoints

1 Samuel 4:1-11

1. When we don't get our hoped-for answer to prayer, we may face disappointment or a crisis of faith. What are some potential reasons for unanswered prayers?
2. How do we try to manipulate God?
3. God saves us from our enemies, yet even he can't save us from ourselves.
4. Believers should say NO to _____ religion and YES to _____ faith.

5. When it comes to disappointment, life offers only two options: disappointment _____ or disappointment _____.

6. When God disappoints:

- _____ to base our faith on the fulfillment of our dreams.

No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)

- _____ to God's wisdom and depend on his love.

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:9)

- _____ what God is saying and respond in obedience.

Your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." (Isaiah 30:21)

Discussion Questions

1. Why did the Israelites wait twenty years to repent and return to the LORD? Why do we wait?
2. How do you respond when God doesn't do what you want?
3. Is your faith more transactional or transformational? How has God used your disappointments to make you more like Jesus?
4. Share with your group how they can pray for you, and then pray for one another.