



April 26

Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

This week, Matt addressed an issue that is very relevant to the times we are experiencing. Being alone. But as he pointed out, being alone is more than just being by yourself. It's really about how much we trust in God and His promises. The danger is that these feelings of doubt and loss of trust can turn into resentment. These feelings can be made worse by what looks like worry-free Christians to the right and left of us. We listen to answers God has given them, as we quietly hurt inside with feelings of abandonment and unanswered questions. If only we could believe what God promises in Scripture, that He will never leave us nor forsake us. And yet, we feel alone.

Into the Word

Read Hebrews 13:5.

God promises He will never leave us nor forsake us. We have to hold onto the promises of God when we see nothing. He cannot go back on his promises, or he no longer is God.

Read Genesis 37.

In the story of Joseph, when his brothers devised a plan to throw him in a pit and get rid of him because of their jealousy, God remained with Joseph. Again and again Scripture tells us the Lord was with Joseph. God doesn't back away when things get rough for his children. God is not a fair-weather friend.

Read Isaiah 43:2.

God explains that no matter what happens to us, He will keep us safe. It is comforting to know that no matter what is on the road ahead of us, we do not walk alone. He promised.

God places a lot of value in enduring. Scripture is filled with times that His people have had to endure before finally receiving the promises of God. These times can be seen as times of training us to depend on Him. What are some of the experiences in your life God used for your training grounds? Did you know you were in training at the time? If not, what did you think was happening?

"God is faithful." What were some situations where you struggled with that truth in the midst of your trials. What turned the struggle around for you? Is there a trial you currently face that is challenging your faith?

Although Scripture tells us we are never alone, describe a time when you felt alone. What gave you comfort at that time?

Apply The Word

Read Acts 16:25.

The apostle Paul also knew how to trust God. Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. That is not surprising until we realize where they were singing their praises. How could Paul and Silas sing in prison? In the dark? When they had every reason to feel abandoned and alone? They could because the Lord was worthy of praise. He is always worthy of praise; it has nothing to do with what is going on in our lives.

Does your trust level reflect a mature relationship, one that is in process, or one that needs work? What is preventing you from moving to the next level?

If you were in Paul and Silas's situation, what would the prisoners be hearing from you? Has there been a time when you were joyous in your trials?

Trust does not come easy. It is actually something that has to be worked on and built up like muscles. What are some ways God has built up your trust muscles?