



# TURNING POINTS

WHEN GOD SEEMS GONE

Digging Deeper

## When God Seems Gone

Week of October 30, 2016

*These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.*

### Message Recap:

**Champions for Christ Don't Quit**

**Read: Matthew 15:21-28**

At some point in our faith journey there will be a time when God seems hard, distant, and unresponsive. There will be a time when we feel rejected, abandoned, and that our prayers are not answered. There will be a time when it feels like God is absent from our lives. What you do at that crossroads determines everything about your character, maturity, and destiny. God doesn't want to raise wimpy kids, and he isn't afraid of leading us through hard times so we can grow. The question is, can you trust a God who doesn't always make sense? Will you be able to see past the fog of emotions that surround you and have the faith to trust a God who is bigger than the way you feel? You don't have to stay where you are. Reject the pain of God's absence and rejoice in the presence of Jesus in your life!

### Pray

Jesus, I am in a place where life is hard right now. I feel lost and alone, and I'm wondering where you are in all of this. But I don't want to stay in my self pity. I want to move into the presence of Jesus where I can trust in your love and know that you care for me. Help me see you and move towards you with relentless perseverance.

### Getting Started

- Share something that has made you stronger in this past year.
- When was the first time your faith was hard? What did you learn about yourself during that time?

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1. We want an easy faith, but life is seldom easy. Why do we think it should be easy when we follow God?
2. Why is this statement true: If we think being God-loved means being pain-free, we will eventually walk away from God when the pain is too deep.
3. Share about a struggle in your life that has made you strong because through it you trusted in God.
4. Read Romans 8:28 and explain this statement: In the Good of God, the pain he brings serves a purpose he loves.
5. Why don't champions for Christ quit on God?
6. Most of us get badly lost in the fog of our feelings. How can we live above the low we feel when God seems far?
7. What will you do from here on out when life gets hard? Will you get mad at God or face the truth and choose to believe in the good of God?

### Living Jesus

When you are faced with the pain of life, what are you going to do with it? Will you stuff your feelings and let them cloud your vision, blocking out God while you feel the pain? Or do you trust in the good of God, still believing that he loves you and he will win? If you are feeling far away from God, keep crying out to him until you can hear his voice. Remember you are called to change this world...not to sit comfortably in a life that isn't your forever home. Your struggles are making you stronger, so don't quit on God. He will never quit on you!

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