

TALK IT OVER

Disappointment with God

BOTTOM LINE

Your circumstances are not an indicator of God's absence or lack of compassion or concern.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What has been your biggest sports disappointment? Or, what's a disappointment you remember before age 18 that seems small now?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- [To the One Who Feels Like Giving Up on God](#) (10 min. read)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

... Lazarus, was sick. So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick." But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, he stayed where he was for the next two days. John 11:2-6 NLT

So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him." John 11:14-15 NLT

"I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." John 11:42 NIV

"When God fails to act in the way I think He should, it is very easy for disappointment, doubt, and disillusionment to follow. Sometimes we even choose to walk away." – Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

Disappointment is a feeling of dissatisfaction when one's hopes, desires, and expectations fail to come to pass. Do you have a sharable experience about disappointment with God? How did you respond? What prompted your disappointment? Unmet expectations? Unanswered prayers? Expecting God to reward your service in a certain way? What is your initial response to the thought that Jesus orchestrated disappointment and heartbreak for His purposes? How about the thought that your deepest faith may grow from your deepest heartbreak and disappointment? With whom in the story do you most identify? The disciples? Mary or Martha? Why? What is your typical response/question when something bad happens that God could have stopped, but He didn't? What does Jesus' weeping say to you? When Jesus says, "If you know/see Me, you know/see the Father," what does that mean practically? Your circumstances are not an indicator of God's absence or lack of compassion and concern. How could you explain this to a person in deep pain who is walking away? *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you"* (1 Peter 5:6-7). Discuss these verses as an action plan for your disappointment.

ACTION STEP

Despite my disappointment, I will humble myself and choose to believe that God is always with me, and He will lift me up.