



# TRUST ISSUES

## *When My Life Doesn't Make Sense*

#nptrustissues

Week 5  
5 of 5

October 8, 2017

**Bottom Line:** Define your life by God's promises, not by your disappointments.

**Icebreaker:** Share a uniquely fall activity you enjoy.

**Key Verse:** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.* Proverbs 3:5-6

We all have those times in life where life doesn't make sense. Actually, we may be a bit afraid to say it, but God doesn't seem to make sense. The way life is happening doesn't square with what I have believed and trusted about Him. The natural human reaction is to give up and try someone else when a relationship is disappointing. Many people do that with God. When He disappoints, seems distant, or is slow to act, they look for satisfaction and relief somewhere else, in another person or coping strategy. It always disappoints. God is the only One who can truly satisfy and make all the complicated elements of my life come together.

God has provided grace (power to meet my needs, power to put one foot in front of another) to meet me at the point of my deepest need; my most critical moment. His grace will help me find the strength and energy to move in the direction God wants me to go.

I access that grace by remembering God's promises, relying on His plan, not my own, actively looking for and recognizing His provision for me, and resting in His presence. He has said He will never leave me; will never forsake me. When I am conscious of His presence, I can handle anything. My perspective is enlarged and clarified. I find myself comforted by a peace that is impossible to understand, and I have power for the moment. I can always fully trust my heavenly Father, regardless of how the situation appears.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most specifically from the weekend message?

"If you could figure God out, He would be too small to trust." Discuss.

What is a promise that has helped you hold on through difficult times?

Too often we pray and want God to work, but we don't actually obey God and participate in His plan. We think God has forgotten us, but actually we have walked away. James 1:22 says we are only fooling ourselves when we don't do what the Word of God says.

Where/when do you believe the temptations to leave God's plan are most difficult? For example: When I am lonely, I am most tempted to . . .

### LOOK IT OVER >>>

Amazing thought: In every arena where I am demoted and disappointed, Jesus was, too. That means He can understand me completely. He can give me exactly the grace I need in the moment to do what I would never have believed I could do. Have you experienced that grace? If so, share how.

What helps you become aware of God's presence? What helps you relax and rest in His presence?

How do you recognize God's presence with you?

In the garden, Jesus said, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done." On the cross, He was still trusting and He said, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" In the most excruciating of circumstances, the relationship and trust were intact. What does it take to trust like that? What builds trust before the hard times?

## NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Commit to journal every day this week your choices to rely on the promises and cooperate with the plan. Report next week how God has been with you in presence and grace.
2. Pray for specific situations your group members are experiencing.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Define your life by God's promises, not by your disappointments

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Genesis 50:20  
Tuesday: Proverbs 3:5-6  
Wednesday: Proverbs 3:5-6  
Thursday: Psalm 56:11  
Friday: Hebrews 4:15-16  
Saturday: Philippians 4:19  
Sunday: Psalm 27:10, 13,14

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)