



# Trust Issues

## When God Seems Silent

#nptrustissues

Week 2

2 of 5

September 17, 2017

**Bottom Line:** Remember, when God is silent it doesn't mean He is absent.

**Icebreaker:** Are you usually late or early? What's the longest you ever waited in line for something, and what made it worth it?

**Key Verse:** *Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.* Matthew 11:6

When John's disciples asked John's question to Jesus, Jesus was not offended or upset with John. Even though John had asked if his faith in Jesus had been well-placed, Jesus just reminded him that what He had been doing was exactly what the Messiah was supposed to do. Then he assured the people that no one had ever been greater than John. Tucked in the middle of these affirmations was a statement that carries vital truth for everyone who is struggling: "*Blessed is anyone who doesn't stumble on account of me.*" In other words, "Blessed is the one who doesn't get upset with how I handle my business."

When we feel like God isn't doing anything, when it seems He has distanced Himself, it is easy to "stumble," or "get upset with how God handles His business." When we expected God to come through in a certain way or at a certain time, our trust is challenged. When the chapter doesn't end with the "happily everafter" we prayed and hoped would come, that's when we have to choose to keep believing that God is a faithful God. We choose to believe that though the chapter is over, the story is not completed. God has promised that when the story is over, I will have won—if I stick with Him.

My current circumstances are not a reflection of how God feels about me. Neither are my current circumstances a prediction of how my life will be evaluated in the future. God will be faithful to complete His plans for me. Another man in prison expressed it this way: "*I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.*" 2 Timothy 1:12

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most specifically from the weekend message?

Put yourself in John's shoes. What part of his disappointment is most understandable to you?

How have your circumstances affected your view of God? Do you feel God's love and approval more strongly when you are thriving?

"When you go through a hard time, I pray. When I go through a hard time, I doubt." Discuss.

Which of these are most impactful to you when you are having trust issues: the difficult situation, other people's perspectives and input, limited perspective, or unfulfilled expectations? How can you deal with those elements appropriately and helpfully?

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

Jesus loved John the Baptist—His cousin, His friend, His follower. Why do you think he responded as he did?

We don't hear anything about John's reaction when the disciples came back and reported what Jesus said. What do you think he might have felt? Do you think Jesus' answer helped him? Why or why not?

Matthew 14 tells us that John's disciples learned from his example. When John was beheaded by Herod, his disciples "went and told Jesus." What might have happened then?

Matthew 14 also tells us that as soon as Jesus heard the news, He immediately withdrew into a secluded place to be alone. What does that say to you about Jesus' relationship with John? Why?

# NEXT STEPS

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

1. Give an opportunity for anyone in the group to share if they are having trust issues with God.
2. Pray together with and for that person.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Remember, when God is silent it doesn't mean He is absent.

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: Hebrews 12:11

Tuesday: Jeremiah 29:11

Wednesday: Luke 17:6

Thursday: Romans 15:13

Friday: Nehemiah 8:10

Saturday: 2 Corinthians 9:8

Sunday: James 1:5

***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)*