



Trust Issues

Can God Be Trusted?

#nptrustissues

Week 1

1 of 5

September 10, 2017

Bottom Line: You and I can sleep because God is wise, loving, and powerful. He is in moment-by-moment control of every detail of our lives.

Icebreaker: If you could ask only one question to determine whether or not a person was trustworthy, what would it be?

Key Verse: *Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident.* Psalm 27:3

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe. Psalm 4:8

Life can be very hard. God has never told us otherwise. There are things in life we would do anything to avoid—difficult things, unfair things, tragic things for which we have no explanation. When troubles strike close to home, we may either accept the fact that we have no answer, or perhaps come up with answers that may later be proved wrong, or go crazy reliving it all. Is it possible to find the answers we need when God doesn't make sense?

God's Word says YES. All of God's history with people says that we are never alone in our struggles, and that God is committed to make it right. When things seem the most chaotic, God is still working. And He will win. When life swirls around me, I must remind myself of truth. When we tell ourselves otherwise, it makes sense that we will panic, be stressed and filled with anxiety. The truth is . . .

- everything in the universe is managed with complete and specific authority.
- nothing is chaotic in God's eyes. He is never confused or taken off guard.
- my life is secure in the hands of a powerful and loving Father.
- I can live today and sleep tonight in that confidence.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most specifically from the weekend message?

What do you think and feel when God doesn't answer your prayers quickly or as you wish? How do you keep hanging on?

What Scriptures help you when you are struggling?

Job observed, "Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). Do you think he was a pessimist or a realist? What do you think his emotions were when he said it? Where was his faith level? Why?

In what type of struggle is it most difficult for you to trust that God is in control? Family? Health? Politics? Other? Why do you think so?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

The Psalmist wondered aloud, "Why, Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" (Psalm 10:1). When have you felt like that? What did you conclude?

How do your spiritual disciplines (the Word, prayer, worship, etc.) support you in hard times?

Dwight said we need to know our limits when we are struggling. What limits? Control? How does that apply to your perseverance in hard times?

What kind of friend is vital in successfully negotiating storms of life? How do small groups help?

How can you be that kind of friend?

NEXT STEPS

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

1. Whom does the group know who is in a hard place to trust? Commit to prayer and specific encouraging actions.
2. Commit to stating affirming truths aloud every day.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: You and I can sleep because God is wise, loving, and powerful. He is in moment-by-moment control...

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:

Day 1: Matthew 6:34

Day 2: John 16:33

Day 3: Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 4: Philippians 4:6-7

Day 5: Psalm 27:10; Hebrews 10:30

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)