



but what about

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

THE ENEMY OF FAITH IS NOT DOUBT; IT IS UNEXPRESSED DOUBT. THE CHURCH SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE ANYONE CAN ASK “BUT WHAT ABOUT...?” AND FACE SOME OF FAITH’S TOUGHEST QUESTIONS WITH HONESTY AND CONVICTION. THAT’S WHAT THIS SERIES WILL DO.

1 One obstacle to faith for many people is the sense that heaven is giving them the silent treatment. The Bible is full of stories of men and women of faith who went through seasons of silence with God. Have you ever been through such a season, and what did it feel like?

2 WHEN GOD FEELS DISTANT... God’s *silence* ≠ His *absence*. The worship language of scripture allows room to wrestle with the silence of God. **Read Psalm 13:1 and 88:14.** What, if anything, resonates with you from these Psalms? Why is it important to worship and cry out to God even when you feel like He is far away or absent?

3 WHEN GOD FEELS DISTANT... It might be *because I have moved away from Him*. **Read Ezekiel 14:3.** Sometimes God feels far away because we have moved or put “other gods” in His place. It can happen consciously or unconsciously. Has it ever happened to you? What made you aware of it, and what did you do about it?

4 WHEN GOD FEELS DISTANT... It might be *that what I want is not what I need*. God often feels far away when our prayers seem to go “unanswered,” When it feels like God is not answering your prayers, it might be that God is answering, and the answer is either “no” or “not yet.” Why does that seem to be the case at times? Share a time from your own life where God gave you an answer you didn’t request.

5 WHEN GOD FEELS DISTANT... It might be *because God wants our relationship to grow*. God doesn’t just want us to acknowledge His existence; He wants us to pursue a real relationship with Him that goes beyond having to always “show up” (**see John 4:38**). Why is that hard to do if the relationship is built only on the foundation of signs and feelings?

6 It is possible that God intentionally allows dry seasons in our lives not to break our faith, but to build it. How can a season of spiritual dryness actually prove beneficial to our faith? Share a time in your life when this happened.

7 God’s *presence* > my *feelings*. It seems that God chooses to present Himself to us in a way that makes it easy to reject Him if we choose (*a baby in a manger...a man on the cross*). Why does He do this and how does that give you reassurance even when He feels so far away?

Next Step

What is something you need to do this week as a result of what you’ve learned from this message? How can we help you by our prayers and support?

