



When we can't feel God
John Gillmer 27 January 2019

WELCOME: When did you find yourself stranded in a strange place and how did you resolve it?

WORSHIP: You might want to use parts of the lyrics of the two songs below. Both based on Habakkuk 3:17-19:

*THO' THE FIG TREE DOES NOT BLOSSOM
AND THERE BE NO FRUIT ON THE VINE
THE PRODUCE OF THE OLIVE FAIL
AND THE FIELDS YIELD NO FOOD
THO' THE FLOCK BE CUT OFF FROM THE FOLD
AND THERE BE NO HERD IN THE STALLS
YET WILL I REJOICE IN THE LORD
YET WILL I REJOICE IN THE LORD
I WILL JOY IN THE GOD OF MY SALVATION
GOD THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH*

Though the fig tree does not blossom, and there be no fruit on the vine
When I'm facing trials and troubles, and I can't make sense of the times
Yet will I, Yet will I, yet will I rejoice
I will rejoice in the Lord, I will rejoice in the Lord
You are my Hope and my great reward
I have one hope and it's in Jesus, I have put my trust in God
You are all I have ever needed, in the good times and the hard
Let us give thanks to the Lord, when we are rich and when we're poor
Rejoice in the Lord, Rejoice in Lord and again I say rejoice (Evan Rogers)

<https://evrmusic.bandcamp.com/album/the-evan-rogers-collection-2>

WORD: Read Matthew 4:12-13 and John 11:1, 3, 5-6

1. Share or contemplate: a time in your life (childhood, teen years, early adulthood) that you look back on fondly. What did you enjoy about that season?
2. Have you witnessed someone demonstrating great faith in God in very difficult circumstances? How did that person's faith influence your own?
3. Have you ever felt that God was absent from your life, apathetic about what you were going through, or angry with you? How did it influence your relationship with him? What did you do?

4. Discuss/contemplate: *God loves you regardless of whether it feels like he loves you.*

5. Discuss/contemplate LEONARD GRIFFITH's comment:

The New Testament was written to show us that God...in Jesus Christ...has broken the silence of heaven, stepped out from behind the clouds of mystery, entered our human scene and declared himself to be with us and among us forever...we need never again cry out with the Old Testament psalmist: Why are you far away, Lord? Why do you hide yourself when I am in trouble? (Psalms 10:1 CEV)

WORKS IN: In an EDWJ devotional Selwyn Hughes says: *When God does not take something away, even though you continue to plead with him, He will give you a supply of grace that will enable you to cope with it. This is an issue of trusting in Him and being open to receive. When in need of grace, I picture myself standing under a waterfall and open every cell in my body to it.* Do this as a group action or by yourself. Praying something like this: *Father, I am/we are so thankful for the grace that can turn my/our weakness into strength. Remove any reluctance on my/our part to open myself/ourselves to it. Please teach me/us how to receive your grace and become strong at my/our broken places.* Then pray other needs.

WORKS OUT: This week seek to be a comforter and helper for someone who is struggling.