

Group Questions- *I want to believe, but... Week 3*

Goosebump God

10/08/23 – Pastor Kirby

Getting to Know Me Questions:

- When was the last time you had goosebumps? What was it for?
- Out of the 5 senses (touch, hearing, seeing, taste, smell) which is your favorite and which one, if you lost it, you would be ok with...enough?

Into the Bible Questions:

- What's something from this week's teaching that you learned, that stood out, interesting?
- How do you personally know when you have felt or heard God?
- Pastor Kirby said "If you don't always feel God's presence, you're not alone." Are you someone that feels God's presence often, or do you struggle? How does the idea of not being alone in this help or hinder your belief in God?
- We talked about 3 Reasons we may not feel God. Of the 3 which one do you relate to or experience the most right now?
 - Maybe I over sensationalize it
 - Maybe my heart has hardened.
 - Maybe God wants to draw me closer
- **READ:** John 6:30-31
- How would we apply or say this verse today?
- Talk about a time where you really felt God was silent or absent. Did it ever change? How did this make you feel and respond?
- **READ:** Matthew 13:13-15
- In what ways/times/situations do you experience and feel God the most?
- **LISTEN:** Song "Draw Me Close" by The Katinas from the album "Exodus" Lyrics are on the back of the sheet
- **READ** Acts 17:27
- What is making it difficult for you to see God's presence in your life? What do you need to stop or start?

Application Questions:

- Pastor Kirby said "Deprivation brings out desire" Maybe this week, you fast from something and use that time to pursue Jesus.
- Read/Memorize/Reflect on Jeremiah 29:13 this week
¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Title: Draw Me Close

Artist: The Katinas

Album: Exodus

Draw me close to you
Never let me go
I lay it all down again
To hear you say that I'm your friend

You are my desire
No one else will do
'cause no one else can take your place
To feel the warmth of your embrace
Help me find a way
Bring me back to you

You're all I want
You're all I've ever needed
You're all I want
Help me know you are near

I want to believe but...

Week 3

Week 1: On-Demand God

Week 2: Buzz-Kill God

Week 3: Goose-Bump God

'I want to believe in God, but I can't feel God'

Question: How do you know when you have felt God?

If you don't always feel God's presence, you are not alone.

Psalm 88:13-14

¹³ But I cry to you for help, Lord;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴ Why, Lord, do you reject me
and hide your face from me?

But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence. – C.S. Lewis
A Grief Observed

You may as well turn away. The longer you wait, the more emphatic the silence will be come. There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once. And that seeming was as strong as this. What can this mean? Why is He so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble? – C.S. Lewis *A Grief Observed*

Reasons we may not feel God.

1) Maybe I over sensationalize it

John 6:30

³⁰ So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"

³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

2) Maybe my heart has hardened.

Matthew 13:13-15

¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵ For this people’s heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.’

Psalms 51:10-12

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

3) Maybe God wants to draw me closer

Acts 17:22-23, 26-27

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus (Eh·ree·**aa**·puh·guhs) and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁶ From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

Deprivation brings out desire

Jeremiah 29:12-13

¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.