

## ***Study Guide – “Silence”, from 3-11-2018***

### **Key Scriptures:**

Malachi 3:1

"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the Lord of hosts.

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Isaiah 43:18-19

Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old.  
Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it?  
I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.

Psalms 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God.

### **Start Talking.** *(Find a conversation starter for your group.)*

As you listened to the list of “Letters to God from Children”, did they remind you of any simple children’s prayers that you actually heard? Share. If you could ask God for one childlike thing that is not too serious or critical, what would it be?

How does “getting the silent treatment” from someone make you feel? Discuss.

### **Start Thinking.** *(Ask a thoughtful question.)*

Read Isaiah 43: 18-19. Can you share a time when you looked back and saw that God was moving in your life, but you didn't realize it at the time? Share.

Pastor Baugh said, "God allowed His people to exhaust their resources and become frustrated with their efforts before He would intervene." Could God be waiting for you to trust Him more than you trust in your own strength? What are some examples of how someone trusts in his own strength? Discuss.

### **Start sharing.** (*Choose questions that create openness.*)

Have you ever kept silent because you didn't want to say what you were really feeling or thinking? You wanted to calm down and think about what you were going to say.

Pastor Baugh said, "In silent times, we need to rely on God, have faith, and deeply trust." Are you ready to consider God's silence as a time of personal Spiritual development? How will you do that?

### **Start Praying.** (*Be bold, and pray with power.*)

Lord we are humbled that You reached out, loved us, and revealed Yourself to us. We trust that you are always perfect and on time. Help us to make time to seek You and press in to trust You more. We ask in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

### **Start Doing.** (*Commit to a step and live it out this week.*)

Read Isaiah 43: 19-19. When there is a time of perceived silence from God, how great is the temptation to "dwell on the past" (remember the former things)? Pastor Baugh said, "God doesn't focus on what you've done. He sees what you will do." This week, will you try to do what Paul did when he wrote, "...but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14)

Is it easier to hear someone in a crowded, loud place, or when only the person speaking to you is all that you hear? Pastor Baugh said, "If we focus on what God is not doing, we can't see what He is doing." Are you willing to intentionally go to a quiet place today to hear God and see what is really going on?

In this world of instant entertainment, information, and gratification through technology and fast paced business practices, are you willing to stop and hear God say, "Be still, and know that I am God"? (Psalm 46:10)