



We know that God doesn't cause messes or get into trouble. But we can wonder what He's doing in the midst of our problems. The heartache and frustration we experience can overwhelm the best of us. Even recognizing that our messes are those of our own making or from the actions of others or because of the broken, sinful world in which we live, they can leave us seriously questioning God's faithfulness. In those moments many of us ask: Where is God in our trouble? Let's answer that question with today's study.

#### Main Situations:

- A boy's trouble - [1 Samuel 3:10-14](#)
- An elderly man's trouble - [1 Samuel 8:1-9](#)

#### Other Situations:

- The first trouble - [Genesis 3:8](#)
- Disciples' trouble - [Luke 22](#); [John 13-17](#)
- Paul's trouble - [Acts 23:11](#)

#### Lessons:

- All kinds of trouble happen
- God moves toward us in our trouble
- We can choose to receive

#### Application:

- Know we are not alone
- Acknowledge His presence
- Receive His comfort and care
- Move to action

#### Conclusion:

God gets right into the middle of the trouble we face. He doesn't avoid it or avoid us. Our fears, frustrations and brokenness often lead us to think that He is distant and unconcerned. The truth is that in those tough circumstances He waits for us to simply turn to Him to find that He is there with us, to be our "ever present help in time of trouble."

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS for SMALL GROUPS

- Which situation we covered struck you the most? Why?
- Describe a time you know the Lord sustained you in the midst of a difficult situation?
- Where are you currently facing some trouble?
- How do you need to respond and invite the Lord into your trouble?