



Summer at Parkview - Week 2

July 6-7, 2019 | Pastor Todd Clark

This weekend, Pastor Todd talks walks us through the challenging faith question "What do we do when God is silent?"

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. Share with each other what you did to celebrate the Fourth of July. Talk about which part of the celebration was the most enjoyable, interesting, or cruddy.
2. Talk about a time when you had to walk with a friend or loved one through a difficult time. How did you handle the responsibility of helping that person through their difficulties?

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, take a moment and review the key points from this weekend's message.

1. Many of us try to live by circumstantial faith: Trust in God based on our ability to interpret our circumstances.
2. One of the most difficult faith questions is this: what do we do when God seems silent?
3. Sometimes "torment," when you switch the word around, can become our "mentor."
4. When God seems silent it has nothing to do with the amount of faith in our lives.
5. Your greatest weakness is God's greatest opportunity to show Himself strong to you and the world.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: 1 Corinthians 12:7-10, Hebrews 12:2

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that stuck with you. Share why it stuck out to you.
2. Talk about a time when you felt like God was silent - you may be in the middle of it right now. What was (or is) the biggest challenge to you during God's apparent silence?
3. Read Psalm 22. Read out loud if possible, and make a note of words or phrases that stand out to you. The Psalms are poetic songs and prayers that were used in Israel during worship. This particular psalm is a "lament" psalm, meaning a psalm that exhibits what it is like to be sad that God has not responded to pain or injustice.
4. In Psalm 22:1-2, the writer expresses the feeling of being "abandoned" by God. Talk about what images, thoughts, or feelings come up when you think of God's "abandoning" people. How have you felt God's abandonment in your own life?
5. If you are familiar with the Bible, you may know that when Jesus was dying on the cross he quoted Psalm 22:1 (see Matthew 27:46). How does Jesus' use of this psalm help us understand how we express our pain to God? Talk about a time when you felt like you couldn't "complain" or lament to God. How does Jesus' words help your understanding of complaining to God?
6. Psalm 22 uses a "back and forth" structure, moving from sadness to hope, then back to sadness again. There are 6 different thematic sections in Psalm 22 (v.1-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-18, and 19-31). Talk about how the "back and forth" of trust and sadness resembles the journey you've taken through times when you felt God abandoned you. How does this back and forth structure help us deal with our different emotions during times of God's silence?
7. Pastor Todd said, "Your greatest weakness is God's greatest opportunity to show Himself strong to you and the world." Talk about how you see that line of thinking in Psalm 22. How have you seen it play out in your life? If you're in a season where God feels silent, how would you LIKE your weakness to become strength? Take a moment as a group and pray that God will bring strength to you out of your weakness.

Closing Prayer:

God, why are you quiet when we need you yell hope into our lives? There is so much we don't understand. Our weakness feels like handcuffs, but we have now heard that you see our weakness as a key. Help us to listen, even when you are quiet, to what our difficulty and pain is teaching. Help us hang on when we think you've abandoned us. Give us the patience to know you're up to something, even when we don't know where you are. Thank you.

Amen.