

I N G O D I N T H E S I L E N C E

"GOD IN THE SILENCE" WEEK 1 NOTES **JANUARY 1**

KEY THOUGHTS

- One of the most agonizing things we walk through is the experience of silence. When that happens in our relationship with God, it's painful.
- The book of Esther is a story of God in the silence.
- The historical context: Judah is in exile, Persia has overtaken Babylon, Esther who has lost her parents now gets taken into Xerxes' harem, and even becoming queen doesn't make things better. Then, her people are facing genocide.
- Silence in the midst of pain makes the pain worse.
- Time doesn't heal all wounds – not when it's quiet.
- Things don't always get better.
- Silence is paralyzing when you need direction.
- Silence is paralyzing when previous ways God has spoken to you feel quiet.
- Silence is paralyzing when you don't feel God like you used to.
- Life Lesson #1: God doesn't have to be heard, seen, or even felt, to be active. That's the dominating story in the story of Esther.
- Also seen in the story of Job. Of all the characters, the only one not corrected is Elihu. In his words to Job (33:14), he says this (The Message): God always answers, one way or another, even when people don't recognize His presence.
- We're not even saying you have to recognize His presence in the midst of what you're walking through today. But take great comfort in the promise and trust that He is there.
- Deuteronomy 31:6 – "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

SCRIPTURES

- The book of Esther
- Job 34:14
- Deuteronomy 31:6

PRACTICAL & REFLECTION

- Have you experienced the pain of feeling that God is silent? If you are going through that right now, can you identify why you feel that?
- Is it enough for you to simply trust that He is with you, even if you can't hear His voice?