



Believe | February 7, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Does anyone else wish that God communicated to us like ads on Facebook or Google? You know...when you look something up, or almost just even think about something, and it shows up right in front of you? The reality is that's just not the way God communicates with us.

Key Verse

Matthew 27:46 (NIV)

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

Discussion

There are times in life that make us question our direction and purpose. When we are in these times, we want quick and obvious answers, but the answers to these questions are not often that clear.

1. Have you ever looked something up or had a conversation about something and then poof it shows up in front of you with some sort of targeted marketing?
2. Can you think of any examples in your life where you wish an answer you were waiting for would show up like that?

When we go through difficulty, we want answers and direction. It feels like it would be so much easier if the answers to all our questions were plastered on a billboard, a Facebook ad, or found easily in a Google search.

3. Are there any examples in your life of difficult questions to which you want answers?
4. What do you typically do when the answers are not clear or don't come quickly?

Wouldn't it be nice if God told us the exact steps we were supposed to take? When we seek answers from God, we are often looking for a step-by-step manual. We seem to be looking for God to say, "Do this." "Go there." When we don't receive the answers we want from God, we can begin to question him. The good news is; questioning God is not wrong. In fact, it puts us in great company. Matthew 27:46 shows Jesus in his biggest moment of despair crying out to God..."Why are you so far away from me?" 3 days later Jesus overcame death and God's love story for us was more complete than ever.

5. Why do you think God often does not give us direct answers to our questions?
6. Can you think of a time when a direct, quick answer did not come but that eventually made sense or was answered?

What's Next?

When we are stuck in a moment, it is very difficult to see beyond the moment. We seek help and if it doesn't come as we expect, we run the risk of losing faith or blaming God. This week, as you live out your faith, be honest with God about your doubts, confusion, and frustration. Ask Him to show up in your life and to be strengthened in your doubt. Doing so won't necessarily get you exactly what you want, but it will help in the process and draw you nearer to God.