



Disappointed with God | March 16, 2016

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Comic book series with hero themes are some of the biggest blockbusters of our time. On some level, we all want a hero-God who saves us from all of our problems. What happens when God doesn't do what we wanted Him to do or what we think He should do? What happens when God disappoints?

Key Verse

Luke 23:44-46 (MSG)

By now it was noon. The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours—a total blackout. The Temple curtain split right down the middle. Jesus called loudly, “Father, I place my life in your hands!” Then he breathed his last.

Discussion

The Jews living at the time of Jesus's ministry also shared our desire for a hero. They wanted Jesus to free them from political oppression and were extremely disappointed when things didn't turn out that way. One day they were celebrating Jesus and within a week, they had turned their backs on Him.

1. Have you ever heard a story of someone losing their faith as a result of disappointment with God?
2. How have you experienced confusion, doubt, and disappointment with God in your own life?

As the story goes, the Jews were offered a choice between two prisoners: Jesus and Barabbas. Some say Barabbas's first name was “Jesus” as well, and that he was a political rebel who sought to overthrow the Romans. Essentially, the crowd was offered a choice between two Jesus's—Jesus bar Joseph (bar = son of) who they sentenced to death and the political rebel Jesus Bar Abbas who seemed to better suit their desires.

3. What types of things do you think you choose as a replacement for God in your life when you feel distant, disconnected, or disappointed with Him?

There are two characters faced with disappointment with God—the crowd and Jesus. The crowd ultimately turns its back on Jesus and remains blind to God's plan. When faced with even more grave consequences, Jesus has an entirely different response. He says in the above verses from Luke, “Father, I place my life in your hands!”

4. Share a time when you have looked at a difficult situation, conflict, or potential disappointment and given up control to God?

What's Next?

Disappointment with God is not a trivial topic of conversation. Life can be extremely difficult and provide many disappointments. However, we can learn from Jesus in understanding that ultimately God's plan trumps our immediate desires. How can you extend or display trust that God is good and desires to redeem even the most painful experiences and losses in your life? In what specific areas do you need to place your life in His hands?