

God Feels Far Away?

Opening Questions:

Are you a person that is more likely to make decisions based on logic or based on your feelings or intuition? Why do you think that is?

Have you ever had a season in your life when God felt far away? What was that experience like?

Read John 15:9-12.

- What sticks out to you in this passage, thinking about the experience of God's presence?
- According to this passage, what is the way that we 'remain in God's love'?
- Why do you think there is a strong connection between obedience to God's commands and the experience of closeness with God?
- Have you ever experienced that connection between obedience and closeness to God?
- Why do you think Jesus specifically talks about joy in connection to remaining in his love?

Pastor David talked about how everyone goes through seasons when God feels distant.

- Why do you think this is a common experience?
- Is it avoidable or is it something everyone just has to go through at times?

In the message, we explored how in Psalm 22:1-4 King David experiences a strong feeling of God's abandoning him and then speaks truth to that feeling.

- Reading the passage, what truth(s) does David call to mind?
- Do you find yourself in situations where your feelings are not in line with reality?
- How can you better speak truth to your feelings in those situations?

In the message, Pastor David shared a number of reasons God can feel far away. 1. Because we've drifted further from God. 2. Because we have put up an emotional wall for fear of being hurt. 3. Because of ongoing sin in our lives. 4. Because God's wanting to increase our emotional maturity. 5. Because God wants to grow our faith.

- Can you think of any others?
- Do you find yourself especially prone to one of these experiences?
- How can you draw close to God again in these circumstances?

Application:

What are some ways that we can seek God, regardless of what we are feeling?

Or, even if we don't feel like seeking God?

Prayer

- Share praises and prayer requests with one another.

Guided prayer: Father, it can be really frustrating when we feel far from You. Thank You for being bigger than our feelings and for always being with us. Build our faith as we go throughout this week, and reveal any places where we've allowed our hearts to harden.

Please help us seek You this week. Amen.