



Small Group Discussion Guide

Ice Breaker: If you found a genie in a bottle, what would be your 3 wishes?

Instructions: If your group meets bi-weekly do 1 & 4.

1. Pastor Tom stated, "There is no such being as 'on demand God', and that misconception has become an obstacle to personal faith in too many people's lives." Why do you think that's the case? Have you experienced similar thoughts/ideas about God? How do these thoughts hinder spiritual growth? Read Isaiah 29:16 and 64:8. Do you sometimes wish you could be the Potter instead of God? What would you "reform" about yourself?
2. When God doesn't answer your prayers, have you questioned His love for you? How so? Pastor Tom indicated that "God doesn't show us He loves us by answering our prayers." Does this statement surprise you? Why? Read 1 John 4:8, 16 and Romans 5:8 and 8:35-39. How does God demonstrate His love for us? What can separate us from God's love?
3. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. Does this passage give you comfort or make you uncomfortable? Explain. Review the 4 ways Pastor Tom listed that God is on a different level. Which of these is easiest for you to accept? Which is most difficult? Why is that the case? What steps might help someone to accept these more difficult realities about God?
4. Read Deuteronomy 31:6b, Joshua 1:5b, Hebrews 13:5b and Psalm 23:4. Based on these promises, how should we respond to fear and the dark/hard places in life? Pastor Tom stated that "Until we recognize that ultimately God is all we have, we'll never realize that God is all we need." How have you or someone close to you experienced this truth? Is it possible to grasp this concept without going through difficulties in life? Why or why not? Pastor Tom said, "God uses everything to draw us to Himself..." What was one way He drew you to Himself that was unexpected?

Personal Guide for Week of April 23rd

- DAY 1 – Read Psalm 93.** What characteristics of God do you find in this passage?
- DAY 2 – Read Isaiah 6:1-7.** How did Isaiah respond when he saw the Lord?
- DAY 3 – Read 1 John 4.** How does our understanding of love impact our relationship with God and others?
- DAY 4 – Read Philippians 4:6-9.** What does Paul encourage us to do in this passage?
- DAY 5 – Read Matthew 6:5-18.** What did Jesus' teaching about prayer reveal about God's character?

I WANT TO BELIEVE, BUT ...

ON-DEMAND GOD

April 23rd, 2017

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION // PERSONAL GUIDES



“On Demand God”
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

...the struggle to believe in God in so many cases is not because people are rejecting the God of the Scriptures; they're rejecting a _____ view of God.

We live in an “on-demand” _____.

There is no such being as “on demand God”, and that misconception has become an _____ to personal faith in too many people's lives.

1. God is not the Ultimate _____

In the _____, we are not the main character.

God doesn't exist to _____ us.

We exist to _____ Him.

Note Isaiah 29:16; 64:8

Since God isn't “on demand God”, then who is He?

2. “God is _____” (note I John 4:8, 16)

Just because God doesn't do _____ what we want when we want...it doesn't mean He doesn't love us.

Note Micah 7:18 and Romans 8:35-39

God doesn't show us He loves us by answering our _____.

He demonstrated His love for us on a _____ (note Romans 5:8).

There's _____ a moment where God doesn't love you...

3. God is on a Different _____

God is so far beyond what we can comprehend or even _____ (note Isaiah 55:8-9).

- God is _____ than me (and you).
- He's not bound by _____.
- He is sovereign and g_____ and is working every intricate detail of our lives...to make us r_____ His Son Jesus more and more.
- He is infinite and amazing in every way and I don't have to understand everything to _____ His heart, character, and nature.

4. God is Always With Us (note Deuteronomy 31:6b; Joshua 1:5b; Hebrews 13:5b; Psalm 23:4)

Even in the darkest places of life _____ doesn't have to rule because God is with us.

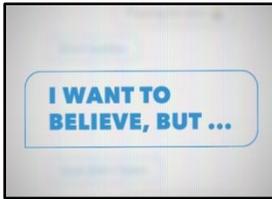
We often see God's p_____ on the mountaintops; but we begin to experience God's f_____ in the valleys of life.

Until we recognize that _____ God is all we have, we'll never realize that God is all we need.

I Want to Believe...:

- God is too holy, glorious, powerful, and good to be m_____ by human beings.
- He is not an “on-demand” God”, but is the Creator and _____ of the universe.
- He uses everything to draw us to Himself...

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“On Demand God”
Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

...the struggle to believe in God in so many cases is not because people are rejecting the God of the Scriptures; they're rejecting a distorted view of God.

We live in an “on-demand” culture.

There is no such being as “on demand God”, and that misconception has become an obstacle to personal faith in too many people's lives.

1. God is not the Ultimate Genie

In the Scriptures, we are not the main character.

God doesn't exist to serve us.

We exist to serve Him.

Note Isaiah 29:16; 64:8

Since God isn't “on demand God”, then who is He?

2. “God is Love” (note 1 John 4:8, 16)

Just because God doesn't do exactly what we want when we want...it doesn't mean He doesn't love us.

Note Micah 7:18 and Romans 8:35-39

God doesn't show us He loves us by answering our prayers.

He demonstrated His love for us on a cross (note Romans 5:8).

There's never a moment where God doesn't love you...

3. God is on a Different Level

God is so far beyond what we can comprehend or even imagine (note Isaiah 55:8-9).

- God is wiser than me (and you).
- He's not bound by time...
- He is sovereign and good and is working every intricate detail of our lives...to make us resemble His Son Jesus more and more.
- He is infinite and amazing in every way and I don't have to understand everything to trust His heart, character, and nature.

4. God is Always With Us (note Deuteronomy 31:6b; Joshua 1:5b; Hebrews 13:5b; Psalm 23:4)

Even in the darkest places of life fear doesn't have to rule because God is with us.

We often see God's power on the mountaintops; but we begin to experience God's faithfulness in the valleys of life.

Until we recognize that ultimately God is all we have, we'll never realize that God is all we need.

I Want to Believe...

- God is too holy, glorious, powerful, and good to be manipulated by human beings.
- He is not an “on-demand God”, but is the Creator and Ruler of the universe.
- He uses everything to draw us to Himself...

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!