



Week 1, Day 1: God, Are You There?

I feel alone. I pray, but God is silent. At these times, I wonder if God is even there.

You're lonely. You're worried. You're frustrated. You're desperate. You don't know where to turn, so you call out to God. You pray your best prayers. And...crickets. Nothing. As far as you can tell, God is silent. He's indifferent.

That is a perfectly logical conclusion. After all, if you told a friend all your troubles and they sat silent as a stone—no advice, no gesture of empathy, no words of encouragement—wouldn't you wonder if they'd gone deaf, or worse, just didn't care? What, then, are we to make of the silence of God?

Who's There?

When someone gives us “the silent treatment,” we run through a mental checklist: Have I offended him? Failed to keep a promise? Behaved badly? We imagine that if we can attribute the silent party's unresponsiveness to some egregious action of our own, perhaps we can make amends and return to speaking terms. The burden, we believe, is on us.

But “God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind.” Perhaps the first error we make in understanding God's silence is failing to understand his nature. We forget that God is not a man, and we attribute human motives and emotions to him in an attempt to explain his actions. But our ways, he says plainly, are not his ways.

And while other human beings might predicate their responses to us on our behavior—good or bad—God does not. His behavior is an outflowing of his character, not our own. And his very nature is love.

John 3:16 (NLT)

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

Does God love you? John 3:16 tells us that God loves the world. You and I are included in that description. No matter what you have done or how unworthy you think you are, God loves you. He sent His Son to die for us. He sent His Son to make a way for us to be forgiven and to be in a permanent relationship with Him. When we believe in Jesus Christ and receive His free gift of salvation, our relationship with God is settled. Do you struggle with believing that God loves you? What do you think drives that struggle?

For further study: Read [1 John 3:16](#) and [1 John 4:10-19](#).

How many different ways do these verses say that God loves you?