

2021

Fact or Fiction

The lies we believe

Group Guide July 11th



Series Overview

The circumstances of life have a way of convincing us false things are actually true. However, appearances can be deceptive. The truth is false beliefs are commonplace and dangerous. This is especially true when it comes to God. This matters because the things we believe can have serious implications on the actions we take. In this series, we will be discussing four, common false beliefs about God and how separating fact from fiction leads the way to freedom.

Week One

Emotions are powerful. So powerful, in fact, that they are the origin for how we interpret most of our life experiences and guide many of the actions we take. How can we know that God, who is not human, knows how we feel when we feel? If Jesus did not sin, how could he possibly understand the things we often go through? These are honest questions, and they deserve honest answers. This week, we will discuss together three of the most powerful human emotions and how Jesus himself knows them well.

Thoughts: Jesus Can't Understand What I'm Going Through

Big Idea: Jesus knows what it is like to live as a human

Scripture: Isaiah 55:8-9, Micah 7:18-19, Exodus 15:11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Matthew 26:40-41, Matthew 27:46, Psalm 22:1

Key Takeaways & Action Items:

- The things we think about God aren't always true.
- Maybe he's got it, but he just doesn't get it.
- The self-reliant road has two destinations: Using God selectively, Abandon God completely
- Jesus, dramatically and definitively, closed the gap.
- Anger, Betrayal, and Suffering. These are the Devil's cocktail, and they are extremely effective in turning us away from God.
- Jesus understands your anger, and he knows how it feels.
- Jesus understands betrayal, and he knows how it feels.
- Jesus understands suffering, and he knows how it feels.

Group Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things that you've been taught to believe about God that you've found aren't really true?
2. Did you grow up believing God is Distant, Angry or Weak?
Or, Have you recently felt God is Distant, Angry or Weak?

3. Read Isaiah 55:8-9, Micah 7:18-19, and Exodus 15:11
What are the key characteristics spoken of God that show you he is not distant, angry or weak?
4. A common thought is: "maybe he's *got it* but he just **doesn't get it.**" Do you feel like Jesus actually understands what you're going through?
5. Read Hebrews 4:14-16
Thinking that He doesn't "get it" typically leads us to a crossroads of *Using God Selectively* or *Abandoning God Completely*. This is Where Jesus closed the Gap to speak on our behalf. What are some hard things you've gone through that you now realize Jesus also went through? What did you feel?
6. Jesus felt and understands all of these common feelings we go through when at the crossroads: **Anger, Betrayal and Suffering**. Can you reference times when you've read or learned about Jesus feeling these?
Examples:
 - a. Anger: Matthew 21:12-17
 - b. Betrayal: Matthew 26:40-41
 - c. Suffering: Matthew 27:26

Scripture & Resources

- “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)
- Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people? You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you delight in showing unfailing love. Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean! Micah 7:18-19 (NLT)
- “Who is like you among the gods, O Lord— glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders? Exodus 15:11 (NLT)
- Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV)
- Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves!” The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David.” But the leaders were indignant. They asked Jesus, “Do you hear what these children are saying?” “Yes,” Jesus replied. “Haven’t you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, ‘You have taught children and infants to give you praise.’” Then he returned to Bethany, where he stayed overnight. Matthew 21: 12-17 (NLT)
- Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!” Matthew 26:40-41 (NLT)
- And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” **Elee Elee lama sabachthaknee?** that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew 27:46 (ESV)
- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? Psalm 22:1 (ESV)

