



God.0

THE SEARCH FOR THE
ORIGINAL VERSION
OF GOD'S CHARACTER

SESSION

3



1. One of the people in this room has really let me down in the past.
2. I have had to turn my back on someone because of their behavior.
3. People tend to let me down when I need their help the most.
4. There are times when God forsakes people.
5. There is a line you can cross where God the Father will stop trying to save you.

yes
&
no

dig
deeper

∞ During your younger years, how fearful were you of your own salvation? And was there a time in which you felt as if God might forsake you?

» Does God forsake people, and are there places in the Bible that say so?

DIDN'T JESUS ACCUSE GOD OF "FORSAKING" HIM?

Read Matthew 27:45, 46

45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

∞ Here it seems that Jesus is accusing God the Father of "forsaking" him during his greatest time of need.

- What are some of the reasons people have given you that God the Father turned away from Jesus at this dark moment?
- If your child was going through a time of great suffering, would you turn your back on them?
- What do all of these things say about God the Father? Does it fit within His character of love?

dig deeper ...continued

° WHAT JESUS NEVER SAID...

» Misunderstood lyrics: Can you find any superscript around Jesus' statement in Matt. 27:46. What does it point to in the margin?

° The song Jesus Sang:

Psa. 22:7-18 -0 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 8 "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." 9 Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast...14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. 16 Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. 18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

» Who wrote this song? When did this happen to him?

» The first half of the song shows what is happening around the cross. What does the second half show?

READ Psalm 22:19-31 - 19 But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me...24 For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. 25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows. 26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him— may your hearts live forever! 27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him...30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. 31 They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn— for he has done it.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN GOD THE FATHER STEPS AWAY FROM US. WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS?

- 1 Judges 16:18-21 The Lord departed from Samson when he stepped away from his divine calling.
2. Judges 10 God said that he would no longer deliver Israel because they had turned to other gods.
3. Matthew 5:14 Jesus said to "Let [the Pharisees] alone," because they are blind leading the blind.

THE BIG PICTURE TEXT:

2 Timothy 2:11-13 The end of this passage says that God cannot disown himself. What part of His character cannot change according to verse 13?

my
prayer

1. Based on your life right now, what song might you sing to God the Father?
2. How does the knowledge that God will never leave you nor forsake you energize your life purpose?
3. How will you let this lab experience change your relationship with God the Father?