



Malachi 3:1; Luke 1:16-17, 25; Galatians 4:4

Silent Night

study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.



INTRODUCTION

When God is silent, we're tempted to think he's absent. That's why the Christmas story is so important. You can't separate the "Silent Night" of Christmas from the 400 years of silent nights between the Old and New Testaments. Christmas gives us a real, tangible, and historical hope. It reminds us that even when God is silent, He isn't absent. He's not even taking a break.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's your favorite Christmas carol? What do you like about it?
2. Have you ever witnessed someone demonstrate faith despite God's silence in his or her life? How did it affect you?
3. Talk about a time when God was silent in your life. How did you respond?
4. Has God's silence ever caused you to wonder if he exists? How did God resolve that season of silent nights in your life? How did it change your faith?
5. **Read Elizabeth's story together - Luke 1:8-25.** How does her faith after years of silence encourage you? Challenge you?
6. **Check out Galatians 4:4-7.** What strikes you most about these truths?
 - a. The Bible doesn't use the word "trinity" to describe God, but how many members of the Godhead do you see here?
 - b. Practically speaking, what difference does that make for your life now?
7. **Read Psalm 27:13-14 together.** How do these verses challenge you? How do they comfort you?
8. Are you in a season of silent nights right now? If so, what can this group do to support and encourage you to trust God's presence even now?

MOVING FORWARD

Our greatest regrets in life come when we believe God has abandoned us and we take life into our own hands. Our greatest displays of faith come in those seasons of silent nights when we hear his silence and feel his absence but trust his presence nevertheless and move forward, knowing and believing that truth.

If you're in a season of silent nights right now, pray this prayer: "Lord, though I hear your silence, help me see with faith. Help me see your presence." Never confuse God's silence with his absence.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son..." Galatians 4:4