

Week Fourteen: **“When God Seems Distant”**  
Day One: **“Separation from God”**

**Read:** Psalm 22 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 604)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life* pp. 107-110

Reflect: When have you felt most far away from God? When has doubt plagued you most severely?

**Dig:** Why does David complain to God?

Why does his memory (see verses 3-5) even increase his pain?

How does the tone change in verse 19?

Jesus apparently had this Psalm memorized because he used several phrases on the cross (see verse 1 and the last phrase of the Psalm). What does this tell you about Jesus' relationship to his Father in Heaven?

What does Jesus' use of this Psalm tell you about his ability to relate to your times of sorrow?

**Apply:** How do you stay connected to Jesus and keep your eyes on him when your eyes are full of tears?

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### Day Two: “Focus on Who God Is—His Unchanging Nature”

**Read:** Job 10:12 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 561)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life* section entitled “Focus on who God is—his unchanging nature.” (p. 111)

**Reflect:** What trial or suffering comes to your mind when you read this phrase: “Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light”?

**Dig:** Look up these passages and in one sentence summarize what Job continued to thank God for even when God was silent in his suffering:

Job 12:10 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 562)

Job 42:2 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 587)

Job 23:10 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 571)

Job 34:13 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 579)

Job 24:14 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 572)

Job 19:25 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 568)

What promise from the Bible is one that sustains you through difficult times?

**Apply:** How can you come out from under the circumstances to begin to trust God’s promises? Take the most difficult “knot” in your life and use one of the promises God gave to Job as a scriptural weapon to defeat the purpose of Satan to discourage you.

Week Fourteen: **“When God Seems Distant”**  
Day Three: **“Trust God to Keep His Promises”**

**Read:** Psalm 73 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 639)

**Read:** *Purpose- Driven Life* section entitled “Trust God to keep his promises.” (p. 111-112)

**Reflect:** Do you mostly live off the fuel of gratitude toward God or do you live from the fuel of God’s promise for the future?

What should be the “engine” for faith in our life, gratitude or faith in future grace?

**Dig:** What was the Psalmist’s great problem, according to verses 2-4?

What was the turning point for the writer? See verses 16-17.

In verses 22-26, is this faith more backward looking (gratitude) or is it more forward looking (faith in future grace)?

If you have a Freedom in Christ Bible, read the “Freedom Point” on page 639. What more do you learn about trusting in God’s promises in times of trouble?

**Apply:** Sing (or speak) these words as a prayer:

“Oh God you are my God  
and I will ever praise you (repeat)  
I will seek you in the morning,  
And I will learn to walk in your ways  
And step by step you’ll lead me  
And I will follow you all of my days”

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Day Four: **“Remember What God Has Already Done for You”**

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1318)

**Read:** *Purpose -Driven Life* section entitled “Remember what God has already done.” (p. 112)

**Reflect:** When did God rescue you and bless you and it became a huge boost to your faith?

**Dig:** Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and answer these questions:

Jesus twice asked that this meal be done “in remembrance of me.” What are we to remember?

What do we proclaim when we drink the cup? See verse 26.

What does Jesus’ death mean for us? See Romans 6:5-7 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1285).

How does tasting and eating and doing this meal numerous times in our life help us remember?

**Apply:** Close with some singing and meditation on the song “Amazing Grace”

“Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me.

I was once lost but now am found,

Was blind but now I see.”

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Day Five: **“Thinking About My Purpose”**

Using the **“Lectio Divina”** method of Bible study (see page 3 of this booklet), **meditate on this scripture:**

**“For God has said, ‘I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.’”**

*Lectio divina* (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- reading: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- meditation: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- prayer: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.