

A NEW NORMAL

IN THE MEANTIME – PART 1

START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- You can find some on page 6 [here](#).
- What is something you are looking forward to doing this summer?

START THINKING. ASK THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- Why do we tend to think that God's silence feels like absence?
- Why do we tend to feel that God's inaction means He is apathetic?
- Why do we tend to feel that our adversity is a sign of God's anger towards us?

Matthew 11:6 (NIV)

Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.

START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- Talk about a season of life—childhood, your teen years, college, early adulthood—that you look back on fondly. What did you enjoy about that season?
- Have you ever seen someone demonstrate great faith in God despite difficult circumstances? If so, how did that person's faith influence your own?
- When have you faced a difficult event or season in life that caused you to feel you'd never be happy again or that no good could come from what you were experiencing? What happened?
- God loves you regardless of whether it feels like he loves you. How would your life be different if you lived as though you fully believed that truth?
- Talk about a time when you felt God was absent from your life, apathetic about what you were going through, or angry with you. How did it influence your relationship with him? What did you do?
- If you're currently in the middle of difficult circumstances or when you are in the future, what are some practical things you can do to remind yourself that God hasn't abandoned you? What role can a LifeGroup play in shoring up your faith when God is silent?

START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Father, teach me that your silence is not an indication you are unconcerned with me. Show me how to hold on to joy, hope, and your promises each day this week, no matter my circumstances. Amen.

START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- When you have a moment when God feels aloof and far away, take that opportunity to remind yourself of the truths we studied.