

40 DAYS OF DISCOVERY

GROWING YOUR FAITH IN DARKNESS

SESSION 3 | DISCOVERING FAITH WHEN ANGRY WITH GOD

2 SAMUEL 6:1-15 | DAVID

Lesson Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:1-15

Background: 2 Samuel 5

Key Verse: 2 Samuel 6:8

Supporting Scripture(s):

Exodus 25:10-15

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been angry with God? Have you ever thought or said: "God, how could you let this happen?" There are times when God's actions don't align with our expectations. This is especially difficult when we experience trouble while attempting to do something for God's purpose and glory.

It can be the darkest time of all when you find that God is the focal point of your anger. How do we find faith when angry at God? What do you do when the one that you ultimately turn to, is the one with whom you're angry?

In this session, we follow King David, a man after God's own heart, who found his heart angry with God.

LET'S DISCOVER!

When angry, ensure that all _____ have been _____ with God's Word. v.7

"And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God." v.7

"You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them. The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it." Exodus 25:13-15

Exodus 25:10-15 gave clear instructions as to how the Ark of the Covenant was to be transported: On poles and carried by the priests. Consequences came as a result of overlooking the command of God. If not careful, we can become angry with God over his promised consequences for our own rebellion. David did the right thing, but in the wrong way.

We become angry with God when our _____ are not met. v.8

"And David was angry because the Lord had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day." v.8

Imagine David's thinking: "God! We were trying to celebrate you... And you killed my friend?" Disaster in the midst of well-intentioned service for God is one of the most difficult circumstances for the faithful.

**To discover faith when angry with God, _____ rather than _____
from His presence. v.9-10**

"And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" So David was not willing to take the ark of the Lord into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite." vv.9-10

Like David, in our anger we can turn to fear and push the Lord away. It is difficult to be close with someone you're upset with; even the Lord. We tend to think that we may get hurt again. Unlike man however, the Lord is not sinful by nature and does not take pleasure in our pain (cf. Ezekiel 33:11).



Step back, _____, and _____ for God's work beyond your situation. v.12

"And it was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." v.12a

Take a step back and look for evidence of God's consistency and faithfulness. See what he's doing outside of your situation: Are others still being blessed? Is He still providing? Are prayers being answered? This is evidence of His faithfulness.

Go to God's _____ to discover God's _____ to do God's _____.

"and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites. Consecrate yourselves, you and your brothers, so that you may bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to the place that I have prepared for it. Because you did not carry it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not seek him according to the rule." (1 Chronicles 15:12-13, ESV)

David sought the Lord and took proper precautions when moving the ark a second time, also providing proper guidance to those under his command.

_____ again. v.12-15

"And it was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. And when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. And David danced before the Lord with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn." vv.12

In the midst of his frustration, David found encouragement in the work of the Lord, and worshipped the Lord with all his might. He led the procession, with the Ark being carried in proper order, with singing and sacrifice. We too can celebrate God for who He is even after finding ourselves angry and distant from Him.

CONCLUSION

There are many of the Faith who find themselves angry with God, facing seasons of darkness that are either allowed or brought on by God. The felt anger and the fear are real, but God can be trusted to remain consistent. He will woo us back to his loving arms if we trust Him; finding faith and joy in the midst of darkness. Though the path to healing may be long, He always stands ready to start again.

QUESTIONS FOR EXPLORATION

1. Are you angry with anyone in this season of life? Why?

2. Is there anything that you need to “forgive” God for?

3. Have you ever attempted to run from God or push Him away, because of a negative experience? What happened?

4. Has your faith been restored as a result of that experience? If so, how was that process? If not, what would it take to begin the process?

5. How was your worship of God different after your perspective changed?



APPLICATION

- **Reach out:** Is there anyone in your life that you are harboring anger towards?
 - **Reflect:** What is the source of your anger?
 - Make a plan to begin the process of healing. (Matthew 18:15-20 is a useful guide in this process.)
- **Reach out:** Is there anyone in your life (Christian or not) that is angry with God due to tragedy or some specific circumstance? Reach out to them and take time to hear their story:
 - **Just Listen.** Do not interject with scripture or correct them.
 - Privately, reflect on what they shared.
 - Offer a prayer to God on their behalf.
- **Reflect:** Is there anything that you need to “forgive” God for? Write it out as a prayer, releasing it to Him.

Faith has an eye to see in darkness



40 DAYS OF DISCOVERY

GROWING YOUR FAITH IN DARKNESS

Daily Prayer Journal

The Psalms show us how to pray and when to pray—when tired, angry, frustrated, lonely, forsaken, overwhelmed as well as when joyous, full of praise, thankful, or happy. Spending time with a Psalm each day will draw you into an open and honest dialog with God.

Read slowly and repeatedly, and write your thoughts and images that come mind. Follow the prayer prompts. Review the resource *“Suggested Weekly Discovery Exercises”* on page 14 for other ideas to experiment as you learn to pray scripture in all its raw and “subversive” emotion and glory.

WHAT ARE SOME

“TREASURES IN THE DARK”

YOU HAVE FOUND DURING THIS SEASON OF LIFE?

ISAIAH 45:3

WEEK 3 | DAYS 15-21

Isaiah 45:3 says, *“I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.”* God lets a pagan king know that he has treasures in darkness and riches (hoards) in secret places, so that God’s name may be glorified.

There lies in each of us the capacity for great faith, which God wants to nurture and grow. God knows in what area your faith needs to grow, and he will use whatever means necessary to make that happen. As a loving father, he will use whatever means necessary to draw out the faith that already exists in you, but has been placed in other things. It is his desire to transfer that faith to Him. God's tool chest is bountiful: pain and suffering, disappointments and discouragement, and the trials of others you love. Though difficult, these challenges become invitations! Our faith grows in proportion to the challenge we face and the trust we place in our God. So, the greater the difficulty or obstacle to overcome, the greater the opportunities to watch God do “Even Greater Things.”

This 40-day journey will be ground-breaking for Golden Gate. First, this is our first all-digital 40-day spiritual growth campaign, and second, the first campaign designed, written, and produced by our own Golden Gate members.

We have two primary goals for this 40-day journey together:

1. Growing faith in tough (dark) times.
2. Learning to pray by reading the Psalms.

These two goals can be accomplished by entering into and following through on three commitments.

1. Spending time with God using the Daily Devotional Journal. Each day you will dive into the prayer book of the Bible.
2. Encountering God in his word with others. A weekly Bible study taught by some great guest teachers will enlighten and offer hope to you and your friends who journey with you.
3. Adoring God in weekly corporate worship. Every Sunday at 10:15 a.m., join the Golden Gate family as we seek to bring pleasure to God in praise, prayer and preaching.

How to Use the 40 DOD Weekly Resources

VIDEO LESSONS

- Each week, a video lesson will be released along with a downloadable lesson guide. Use the guide to follow along, jotting down the key points of the lesson. You may watch the lesson individually, with your discovery partner, or with a group. Always take the opportunity to invite someone new into your study: friends, family, co-workers, etc.
- Set a weekly time to meet with your partner or group and answer the reflection questions.
- Pray together and challenge one another to exercise the application points listed in the guide.
- Join in on the fellowship and discussion for our ***Sunday Chat & Chew at 11:30am CST*** on ZOOM where we will allow open forum and discussion along with other fun and challenging activities.

WEEKEND SERMON NOTES

- Take notes of the weekly sermons. There is space provided with your weekly lesson to take sermon notes as well. Write any questions, immediate thoughts and comments from what you hear.
- You are welcome to join in the after church ***“Chat & Chew”*** on Zoom to engage with others on the sermon for the day and other topics related to the theme for the week.

DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

- The journal offers a daily walk through the “Prayer Book” of the Bible. Each day, a passage from the Psalms based on the theme for the week allows you to absorb the prayer itself and offer it back to God.
- The Psalms show us how to pray and when to pray – when tired, angry, frustrated, lonely, forsaken, or overwhelmed, as well as when joyous, full of praise, thankful, or happy. Spending time with a psalm each day will draw you into an open and honest dialog with God. Read slowly and repeatedly. Write the thoughts and images that come to mind. Follow the prayer prompts. Review the resource *“Suggested Weekly Discovery Exercises”* on page 14 for other ideas to experiment as you learn to pray scripture in all their raw and “subversive” emotion and glory.

LEANING IN

Start and end your week every Monday and Friday at 6:00 a.m. with a word of encouragement highlighting the theme for the week. Several guests have been invited to share God’s word on Golden Gate’s FB Live and Free Conference call. Invite someone to join in with you as well.

SOCIAL MEDIA HASHTAG

#GG40Days2021

Please follow us on social media: [@goldengatembc](#) and post your discoveries with [#GG40Days2021](#)

DAY 15

Slowly and purposefully read the passage a minimum of 2-3 times.

PSALM 73:1–17

MEDITATION

Take some time to reflect on the words and phrases in the text. Underline words, phrases, or images that speak most to you? Write what comes to your mind. OR answer these questions.

What word(s) in this passage caught your attention?

What in this passage comforted you?

What in this passage challenged you?

PRAY

Give God what the Holy Spirit found in your heart. Pray the passage back to God in the form of a personalized prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, etc.

CONTEMPLATE

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection: How does this passage connect with the experience of my daily life?

This is God's movement towards you. Simply rest in His embrace. When your mind wanders, center yourself by returning to the spirit of the passage.

Psalm 73:1–17 (ESV)

Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slip-ped. For I was envious of the arrogant when

I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek. They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind. Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.

Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies. They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression. They set their mouths

against the heavens, and their tongue struts thru the earth. Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them. And they say, "How can God know? Is there know-ledge in the Most High?" Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.

All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning. If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children. But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.

DAY 16

Slowly and purposefully read the passage a minimum of 2-3 times.

PSALM 73:18-28

MEDITATION

Take some time to reflect on the words and phrases in the text. Underline words, phrases, or images that speak most to you? Write what comes to your mind. OR answer these questions.

What word(s) in this passage caught your attention?

What in this passage comforted you?

What in this passage challenged you?

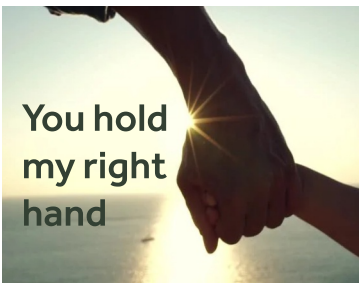
PRAY

Give God what the Holy Spirit found in your heart. Pray the passage back to God in the form of a personalized prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, etc.

CONTEMPLATE

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection: How does this passage connect with the experience of my daily life?

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You hold
my right
hand

Psalm 73:18–28 (ESV)

Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors! Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms. When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

DAY 17

Slowly and purposefully read the passage a minimum of 2-3 times.

PSALM 88:1-9A

MEDITATION

Take some time to reflect on the words and phrases in the text. Underline words, phrases, or images that speak most to you? Write what comes to your mind. OR answer these questions.

What word(s) in this passage caught your attention?

What in this passage comforted you?

What in this passage challenged you?

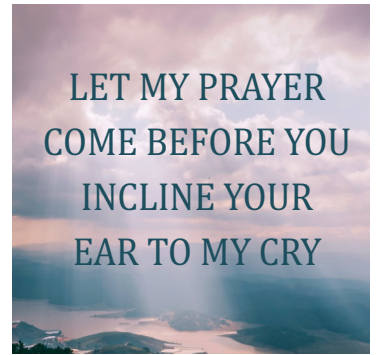
PRAY

Give God what the Holy Spirit found in your heart. Pray the passage back to God in the form of a personalized prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, etc.

CONTEMPLATE

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection: How does this passage connect with the experience of my daily life?

This is God's movement towards you. Simply rest in His embrace. When your mind wanders, center yourself by returning to the spirit of the passage.



Psalm 88:1–9a (ESV)

O Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you. Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry! For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one set loose among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand. You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

Selah

You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow.



DAY 18

Slowly and purposefully read the passage a minimum of 2-3 times.

PSALM 88:9B –12

MEDITATION

Take some time to reflect on the words and phrases in the text. Underline words, phrases, or images that speak most to you? Write what comes to your mind. OR answer these questions.

What word(s) in this passage caught your attention?

What in this passage comforted you?

What in this passage challenged you?

PRAY

Give God what the Holy Spirit found in your heart. Pray the passage back to God in the form of a personalized prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, etc.

CONTEMPLATE

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection: How does this passage connect with the experience of my daily life?

This is God's movement towards you. Simply rest in His embrace. When your mind wanders, center yourself by returning to the spirit of the passage.



Psalm 88:9b –12 (ESV)

Every day I call upon you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you.

Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the departed rise up to praise you? Selah Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon? Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?



DAY 19

Slowly and purposefully read the passage a minimum of 2-3 times.



PSALM 88:13–18

MEDITATION

Take some time to reflect on the words and phrases in the text. Underline words, phrases, or images that speak most to you? Write what comes to your mind. OR answer these questions.

What word(s) in this passage caught your attention?

What in this passage comforted you?

What in this passage challenged you?

PRAY

Give God what the Holy Spirit found in your heart. Pray the passage back to God in the form of a personalized prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, etc.

CONTEMPLATE

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection: How does this passage connect with the experience of my daily life?

This is God's movement towards you. Simply rest in His embrace. When your mind wanders, center yourself by returning to the spirit of the passage.

Psalm 88:13–18 (ESV)

But I, O Lord, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. O Lord, why do you cast my soul away? Why do you hide your face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am helpless. Your wrath has swept over me; your dreadful assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in on me together. You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness.

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

DAY 20

Slowly and purposefully read the passage a minimum of 2-3 times.

PSALM 137

MEDITATION

Take some time to reflect on the words and phrases in the text. Underline words, phrases, or images that speak most to you? Write what comes to your mind. OR answer these questions.

What word(s) in this passage caught your attention?

What in this passage comforted you?

What in this passage challenged you?

PRAY

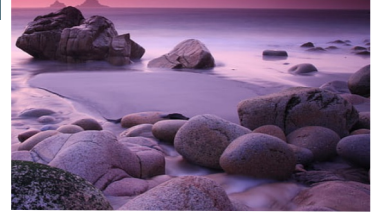
Give God what the Holy Spirit found in your heart. Pray the passage back to God in the form of a personalized prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, etc.

CONTEMPLATE

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection: How does this passage connect with the experience of my daily life?

This is God's movement towards you. Simply rest in His embrace. When your mind wanders, center yourself by returning to the spirit of the passage.

*How shall we sing
the Lord's song in a
strange land?*



Psalm 137 (ESV)

By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy! Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!" O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed, blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us! Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!

DAY 21

Slowly and purposefully read the passage a minimum of 2-3 times.

PSALM 13

MEDITATION

Take some time to reflect on the words and phrases in the text. Underline words, phrases, or images that speak most to you? Write what comes to your mind. OR answer these questions.

What word(s) in this passage caught your attention?

What in this passage comforted you?

What in this passage challenged you?

PRAY

Give God what the Holy Spirit found in your heart. Pray the passage back to God in the form of a personalized prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, etc.

CONTEMPLATE

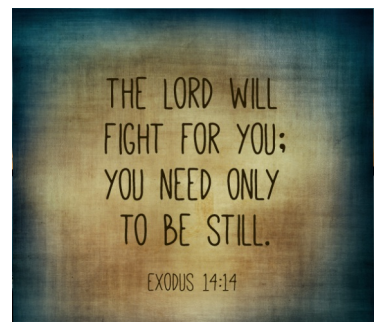
Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection: How does this passage connect with the experience of my daily life?

This is God's movement towards you. Simply rest in His embrace. When your mind wanders, center yourself by returning to the spirit of the passage.



Psalm 13 (ESV)

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.



SUGGESTED WEEKLY DISCOVERY EXERCISES

In order to encourage you to truly experience the Psalms and make them your own, complete one of the following exercises for each weekly lesson in this study. These aren't designed to create busywork, but are to stretch you spiritually. When you finish, report back to your partner or group how the exercise worked for you. Ideally, you'll vary the exercises from lesson to lesson to allow the psalms to become part of you in new ways.

- 1. Pray a Psalm.** Select one of the psalms along the theme of the lesson. Then, using the ideas and as many of the words as seem to fit your situation, pray that prayer to God, inserting your own struggles and needs within the prayer. Go through the entire psalm, paraphrasing it as you pray it sincerely to God. Many people have exercised this kind of prayer – they pray through every Scripture passage they read. Why don't you start this practice with one of the Psalms?
- 2. Meditate on a Psalm.** To meditate means to think deeply about something and mull it over in your mind over a period of time. You might read it several times in different translations. Say it over to yourself to feel the words on your lips. Write it out longhand. Consider the meaning of each important word. Memorization is another exercise, but memorizing is a good way to meditate on a verse or a passage.
- 3. Read a Psalm to a Shut-in.** People who are home-bound or in hospitals, nursing homes, jails, etc. need encouragement. As you exercise, read a psalm from this week's theme to a shut-in. If you read more than one, you'll be doubly blessed!
- 4. Paraphrase a Psalm.** Write out a paraphrase of the psalm of your choosing in your own words. Try to find modern-day synonyms and thoughts that correspond to the thoughts in the psalm. Don't be afraid to be creative.
- 5. Write Your Own Psalm.** Write your own psalm based on the theme of this lesson. You're entirely free in how you do this. Some approaches include:
 - Write in the style of Hebrew poetry using thought parallelism and imagery. This will be fun, though you may find it challenging. Consult my Introduction to Psalms in the section on Hebrew Poetry before beginning.
 - Write a psalm with lines that rhyme like traditional Western poetry.
 - Write a psalm in free verse, not bothering to make the lines rhyme. Just express yourself to God.
 - Write a psalm in Haiku style.
 - Write a psalm in any style you wish. The idea here is to learn to express yourself to God more freely.
- 6. Sing a Psalm.** Find a song, hymn, or praise chorus that relates to the theme of this chapter – and that is based on a psalm. Then sing it or lead it for your group. If you like, write your own song, or find a melody that you can use to sing the words of the song from a translation you prefer. Be creative here.
- 7. Prepare a Liturgy, Responsive Reading, or Choral Reading from a Psalm.** Psalms are at the core of the liturgy of Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican branches of the Church. Explore adapting a psalm for public worship. You might enjoy writing the script for a choral reading of a psalm or portion of a psalm creating parts for 3 or 4 readers. Then try it out during a worship service or in your small group or class.
- 8. Teach or Preach a Psalm.** It's hard to prepare a message for people without really getting inside the text. Teach a psalm to a class of children, youth, or adults, or preach a psalm to your congregation.
- 9. Memorize a Psalm.** "My mind is too old to memorize!" Hogwash! Try it, but perhaps start with a short psalm, or one you've already partially memorized. It's work, but you can do it and you'll find it very spiritually enriching. In ancient days many Hebrew boys memorized the entire Psalter. **In his 90s, Billy Graham put it this way: "Over the years I've memorized many passages from the Bible, and I'm especially thankful now that I did this. I wish we gave more attention to Bible memorization in our churches today."**¹

Memorize one psalm that relates to the theme of the lesson.

¹ Billy Graham in "Quotation Marks," *Christianity Today*, June 2007, p.19.