

**I WANT TO  
BELIEVE, BUT ...**

Check in on ya!  
How are you doing?

Praying for you. 🙏

Back at work after  
the funeral.

Don't bother.

## Goose-bump God

**Series:** I Want to Believe, but...

**Scripture:** Acts 17:26

I want to believe in God, but I don't \_\_\_\_\_ him.

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God is so much \_\_\_\_\_ than our \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ that you are not \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Psalm 88:13-14
  - Psalm 23
  - Matthew 27:26

### 3 possible reasons why we may say, "I don't feel him right now."

1. Some are over-\_\_\_\_\_ it.
  - John 6
  - If you always \_\_\_\_\_ God you wouldn't need \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We may not feel God because maybe our \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Matthew 13:14-15
  - Often we learn to live with \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Acts 17:26
  - Our \_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
  - Never \_\_\_\_\_ that God is with you \_\_\_\_\_.

We can experience \_\_\_\_\_ in the on-going  
\_\_\_\_\_ that my God is always with me.

**Start talking.**

- Share about a time you expected to feel something big (at church, a concert, a special event), but instead felt nothing. How did you handle it?

**Start thinking.**

- Read Psalm 88:13–14. What do these verses show us about the reality of feeling distant from God? How does it help to know even biblical writers wrestled with this?
- Read John 6:28–30. Why do people sometimes demand signs or feelings to confirm God’s presence? How can this keep us from true faith?
- Read Matthew 13:14–15. What does it mean to have a “calloused heart”? What role does sin play in dulling our awareness of God’s presence?
- Read Acts 17:26–27. Why might God allow us to feel His absence at times? How does this create a deeper hunger to pursue Him?
- Read Jeremiah 29:13. What does this promise teach us about how we can find God—even when we don’t feel Him?

**Start sharing.**

- Have you ever gone through a season when you didn’t feel God’s presence? Looking back, how did God use that time in your life?
- What “sanitized sins” (habits we tend to minimize) can quietly harden our hearts and block our sense of intimacy with God?
- How can you practice noticing God’s presence in ordinary, everyday moments instead of waiting for big, emotional experiences?

**Start praying.** Be bold and pray with power.

*Father, You are always with me—leading, protecting, and loving me. If there is any sin in my life that is disrupting our relationship, make it known and cleanse me of it. Lord, so often I get caught up in the busyness of life and forget Your nearness. Remind me that You are before me, behind me, and within me. Help me to seek you even as I stay aware of Your presence so I may reflect Your light to those around me.*

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week

- Intentionally pause once a day to acknowledge God’s presence in something ordinary (a sunrise, a conversation, a meal, a moment of rest).
- Ask God to soften your heart and reveal any barriers keeping you from sensing His presence.
- Choose to trust His promise—that He will never leave you nor forsake you—even when you don’t feel Him.