

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

Checkin' in on ya!
How are you doing?

Praying for you. 🙏

Back at work after
the funeral.

Don't bother.

Heartless God

Series: I Want to Believe, but...

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:6-7

I want to believe in God, but “How do you believe in a God when he _____ even _____?”

Scriptural character that the story may not always make sense of why:

- David
- Job
- Paul (2 Corinthians 11)

Two truths to remember whenever God doesn't seem fair:

1. Remember that God always has a _____ in your _____.

- 1 Peter 1:6-7
- God doesn't _____ the pain but God can _____ the pain.

2. God is _____ in your pain.

- Psalm 46:1
- 2 Corinthians 12:9-11

God is not _____. But God is always _____.

- Psalm 103

Start talking.

- What's something that recently made you say, "That's not fair"? (Could be serious or lighthearted.)
- Have you ever had a time where you prayed for something and didn't get the answer you hoped for? How did that impact your faith?

Start thinking:

- Read 1 Peter 1:6–7. What does this teach about God's purpose in our pain? How can trials actually strengthen our faith?
- Read Psalm 46:1. What does it mean for God to be an "ever-present help in trouble"?
- In what ways is God being just (rather than fair) actually good news for us?
- How do Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 12:9–10 reshape how we view weakness or hardship?

Start Sharing:

- When have you felt like God was silent or distant in your life? How did you respond?
- What are some situations—personally or in the world—that make people question whether God really cares?
- When life feels unfair, what's your first instinct—turn toward God, or away from Him?
- Share a time when you saw God bring good out of a painful situation—either in your life or someone else's.
- How has God's grace been "enough" for you in a season when life didn't make sense?
- What helps you hold on to faith when you don't understand what God is doing?

Start Praying:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for being my hiding place, especially when things are difficult. I know You will be with me at all times. You give me peace and joy. You are my strength and You keep me strong in You, even though I may feel weak. Please remind me of Your works when I get scared, and remind me that You are my protector. Thanks for your faithfulness and that you never leave me.

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

- Take time this week to thank God for His presence, not just His answers.
- Write down one area of life that feels "unfair," and pray specifically for God to show His purpose or presence in it.
- Reach out to someone you know who's hurting and remind them that God is with them—even in pain.
- Memorize Psalm 46:1 as a reminder that God is always present in your trouble.