

WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE—1

WHEN GOD SEEMS INATTENTIVE

- **JUST BECAUSE GOD IS SILENT DOESN'T MEAN GOD IS ABSENT.**

For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, 20 because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man... Mark 6:17-20

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask [Jesus], "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Matthew 11:2-3

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

Matthew 11:4-6

The king [Herod] was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27 So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, 28 and brought back his head on a platter. Mark 6:26-

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. Proverbs 19:21

• YOU DON'T HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE PLAN TO TRUST GOD'S PURPOSE.

Talk It Over

- Start the *When God Doesn't Make Sense* Bible Plan today. go2.lc/whengod
- Share a story about when God was silent. How did it turn out?
- What is something you need to stop trying to understand and just trust God with?

WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE—2

WHEN GOD SEEMS LATE

• WITH GOD, A WAITING SEASON IS NEVER A WASTED SEASON.

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha... 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." John 11:1, 3

TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN WAITING ON GOD

1) GOD'S DELAYS ARE NOT NECESSARILY GOD'S DENIALS.

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

John 11:4

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. John 11:17

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but

Mary stayed at home. 21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." John 11:20-22

2) IF GOD ALWAYS MET YOUR EXPECTATIONS, HE'D NEVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEED THEM.

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die..." John 11:23-26

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

44 The dead man came out..." John 11:43-44

Talk It Over

- Wondering where God is? Go to His Word in the *When God Doesn't Make Sense* Bible Plan. go2.lc/whengod
- What's something you're currently waiting for God to do?
- What can you do to allow room for God to make miracles out of your disappointments?

WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE—3

WHEN GOD SEEMS UNCOOPERATIVE

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT PRAYER

1) TRUE PRAYER ISN'T ABOUT GETTING OUR WAY, BUT SURRENDERING OUR WILL.

... Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 2 Corinthians 12:7

2) PRAYER REMINDS US THAT WE'RE NOT IN CONTROL AND KEEPS US CLOSE TO THE ONE WHO IS.

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 2 Cor 12:8

But [God] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."... 2 Corinthians 12:9

***charis* (khar'-ece)—undeserved favor, grace.**

God freely extends Himself, leaning and reaching to us because He is disposed to bless and be near to us.

3) PRAYER ISN'T JUST ASKING, BUT TRUSTING.

... Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Talk It Over

- Be honest. What's something you need or want, but it feels like God just won't cooperate?
- What would you have to do differently to realize God's grace is simply enough?