

# I WANT TO BELIEVE, BUT ...

## “Goosebump” God

Sunday, April 3, 2022

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### 1. If you don't always feel God's presence, you are not alone

- The presence of God is so much bigger than our feelings
- Feelings are not evidence of the presence of God

<sup>13</sup> O LORD, I cry out to you. I will keep on pleading day by day. <sup>14</sup> O LORD, why do you reject me? Why do you turn your face from me?  
Psalm 88:13-14 NLT

### 2. Why do we struggle to feel God?

- Maybe you are over-sensationalizing it
- Maybe your heart has hardened
- Maybe God wants to draw you closer

<sup>29</sup> Jesus told them, “This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent.” <sup>30</sup> They answered, “Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do?” <sup>31</sup> After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, ‘Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

John 6:29-31 NLT

<sup>14</sup> This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says, ‘When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend.’ <sup>15</sup> For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes - so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.’

Matthew 13:14-15 NLT

<sup>26</sup> From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. <sup>27</sup> “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.”

Acts 17:26-27 NLT

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> In those days when you pray, I will listen. <sup>13</sup> If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you,” says the LORD...

Jeremiah 29:11-14 NLT

### Next Steps:

- During the times when I feel alone and don't experience God's presence, I commit to walk by faith and trust in the Lord
- Confess that my heart has become hardened and I have grown distant from God. I will invest in my relationship with God: \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to know God more and experience his presence in my life. I will seek God through prayer and study
- Invite a friend to come with me to the Sunday Brunch next week
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