

IN THE MEANTIME

THE NEW NORMAL



Getting Started

Which of these experiences ushered in the biggest new normal in your life?

- Going to middle school
- Going to high school
- Going away to college
- Getting married
- Having children
- Getting a job
- Moving
- Retiring

How did your life change when your new normal went into effect?

Going Deeper

When have you faced a difficult event or season in life that caused you to feel you'd never be happy again or that no good could come from what you were experiencing? What happened?

Read [Luke 7:20-23](#). John sends his friends to find out if Jesus is really who he says he is and this discussion takes place. What wisdom can you gain from these verses to help you in your new normal?

In [Luke 7:23](#) Jesus says, Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me. Talk about a time when you felt God was absent from your life, apathetic about what you were going through, or angry with you.

How did it influence your relationship with him? What did you do?

Read [Luke 7:28](#). What does this verse tell you about who God allows to go through difficult times?

What do the following verses say about having faith in dark times?

[2 Corinthians 4:16-18](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:1-9](#)

Have you ever seen someone demonstrate great faith in God despite difficult circumstances? If so, how did that person's faith influence your own?

During the message, Jack asserted that God loves you regardless of whether it feels like he loves you. How would your life be different if you lived as though you fully believed that truth?

If you're currently in the middle of difficult circumstances or when you are in the future, what are some practical things you can do to remind yourself that God hasn't abandoned you? What role can a small group play in shoring up your faith when God is silent?

Sometimes God is silent. Just because he's silent. Just because he's silent doesn't mean he's absent, unconcerned, or angry. You may need to know that someday. You may need to know it today. During challenging times, it's easy to assume that you'll never be happy again, no good can come from your circumstances, or there's no use continuing. Hold on to joy, hope, and purpose by holding on to the truth that God still has the whole world—your world—in his hands.

Take a moment to pray for each other as you face your new normal

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