



And He Added: **Discovering God's Goodness in the Grip of Disappointment** **Jelani Lewis**

- Focus** Disappointment is the gap between what we hope for and what we experience. We've all faced disappointment when God does something different from what we expected, but it's what we do when we're disappointed that matters. Jesus wants us to bring Him our disappointments. We are blessed when we choose to trust Jesus regardless of our circumstances.
- Fun** Memorial Day is a significant time to honor those in our military. Have you or a family member served in the military? Share what this holiday means to you or any traditions you have to honor this special day.
- Review** Key Scriptures: Matthew 11:2–6; John 17:3

1. John is disappointed.

Disappointment is the gap between what we hope for and what we experience. We've all faced disappointment when God does something different from what we expected. But what do we do when we are disappointed with *God*? John testifies in John 1:34 that Jesus is the Messiah. But when John finds himself in prison, he sends his disciples to ask Jesus if He is indeed the Messiah. His circumstances weren't lining up, and John found himself facing disappointment with Jesus.

2. John takes his disappointment to Jesus.

What we do with our disappointment is important. When we are disappointed with someone, we are tempted to disconnect from them. When we are faced with disappointment, we must decide: will we hide from Jesus, or will we come to Him? When John heard about the miracles Jesus was doing, he was disappointed with Jesus because he was imprisoned while Jesus helped other

people. But instead of turning away from Jesus, John came to Jesus with his question and his doubt. We can pour out our hurts and cares to the Lord.

3. Jesus gives John what he needs.

Jesus knows exactly what we need. When John came to Jesus, Jesus didn't give John what he *wanted*; Jesus gave John what he *needed*. John asked Jesus if He was the Messiah. Instead of answering with an all-inclusive yes, Jesus responded that the blind see, the lame walk, and those with leprosy are healed. But He did not tell John he would be freed from prison. Jesus says we are blessed when we are not offended or separated from Him. We are blessed when we choose to trust Jesus regardless of our circumstances.

Group Dynamics Idea As we reflect on Memorial Day, be sensitive to people in your group who may be struggling during this time. Ask God to show you people in your group that may need extra prayer or encouragement in this season.

Discuss

1. What are some reasons people can become disappointed in God?
2. Have you ever felt disappointed in God? Please share.
3. Can you think of a time God gave you what you needed in a difficult time, but it was different from what you thought you wanted?
4. Why is it so important to press into God when we feel disappointed?
5. How can disappointment be a healthy part of our growth?
6. God wants us to intimately know Him. Why does He use difficult situations to deepen our intimacy with Him?
7. Has God ever used a difficult season in your life to cause you to draw closer to Him? If so, please share.
8. Why is it hard to trust in God when we don't fully understand?
9. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- We all experience disappointment.
- We can bring our disappointment to Jesus.

- We can trust Jesus to meet us in our disappointment.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for all those who have served our country so we can have freedom. We pray You would protect and bless those who faithfully serve in our military. Give wisdom to our leaders and help us to never take our freedom for granted. And help us to come to You when we face disappointment. Thank You for faithfully meeting us and giving us exactly what we need. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip During group discussion time, intentionally include the group members in the talk time. A group becomes more connected when everyone can share. If only the group leader talks, the group becomes less dynamic.