



Groups Questions // Jeff Brodie - Online Service (March 22, 2020)

Tips for Participating in Online Discussions:

- Turn on all the lights in your room.
- Mute yourself when you're listening to others.
- Use people's names a lot to draw each other in.
- Put your camera at eye level.
- Speak a little louder than normal.

Message Recap: Hope is what you have. Faith is what you build. How do we build faith in the face of isolation? There is a difference between solitude and isolation, but there is something counterintuitive about solitude that allows us to hear from God.

Scripture: [Hebrews 10:23-25 NLT](#), [Psalm 46:10 NLT](#), [Jonah 4 NLT](#), [1 Kings 19:9-18](#)

Getting Started:

- Thinking back on Jeff's message, what was one point or story that stood out to you? Share why it stood out to you.
- In your experience this past week, have you seen stories of hope in the midst of isolation? How have you seen or heard people sharing hope? How have you worked to build your faith this past week?

Read Hebrews 10:23-25

1. How do you imagine the first-century church processed this encouragement from the writer of Hebrews? Put yourself in the shoes of the original community receiving this letter. How does this encouragement apply to us today?
2. Is there anything in these verses that surprises you, frustrates you, or causes you to think? Why?

Read Jonah 4

3. Have you ever been in a place where you have run in the opposite direction from which God was calling you to? If not, can you imagine God asking something of you that you would find difficult to obey? Explain.
4. Traditionally, when we hear Jonah's story we stop reading after Jonah is obedient and follows God's call to Nineveh, but Jeff reminded us that after, Jonah self-isolated himself. Entitlement is a common negative reaction out of self-isolation. How might Jonah's story resonate with people today? What in this passage resonates with you specifically?
5. Jeff challenged us to take 15 minutes of Solitude, Connection and Purpose each day this week. Discuss:
 - **Solitude:** We are Isolated but not necessarily experiencing solitude. 'Be Still and know that I am God.' - (Psalm 46:10) is God's desire for us. If God spoke to you in your isolation, would your soul be quiet enough to hear him? Cal Newport says 'Solitude is a state in which you spend time alone with your thoughts and free from input from other minds.' What is your experience with solitude? Have you practiced it regularly? Do you find it refreshing or difficult? What are the benefits to slowing down, quieting your heart and reflecting on who God is? How could it be helpful for you to practice solitude this week?
 - **Connection:** Connection in this season is important. As a group how can we lift each other up (we won't give up on meeting together) but how can we find other ways to connect. What are passages from scripture that show evidence of connection benefiting the community? Can you think of ways that Jesus practiced connection? Bonus: Find the passages and read together.
 - **Purpose:** When we are isolated there is a temptation to feel entitled like Jonah. Can you identify with this idea? Share with your group how this has crept in? Encourage each other by calling out a purpose that you have seen group members exercise in the past. Discuss ways you can exercise purpose and be FOR your community this season.

Prayer:

- God wanted to speak to Elijah and while he sent big, loud things to Elijah, he spoke in a whisper. As you practice solitude this week, pray that you would be able to quiet yourselves in order to hear the whisper.
- Pray for the discipline to exercise Jeff's daily challenge of Solitude, Community and Purpose.

Moving Forward:

Plan to keep each other accountable to practicing Jeff's challenge this week. Use your Facebook Chat, and text and call each other!

