

The STORY CHURCH

Personal & Group Study Guide - November 20, 2022

Message Series - I'M OUT: *Responding to 3 Reasons People Give for Leaving Church*

Message Title: "I'm not feeling it anymore"

Series Intro: With every passing year, more and more Americans are walking away from their churches, and they're not coming back. In 2022, just 22% of Americans say they attend weekly worship services, while another 20% attend church "about once a month". Meanwhile, 56% of Americans say they "seldom" or "never" attend worship services.

Now consider this: as recently as 2009, the same survey yielded very different results. Just thirteen years ago, 48% of Americans said they went to church every week, 30% attended services about once a month, and just over 20% said they seldom or never attended worship services.

With this three-part series, we'll explore the underlying question: *"What are the reasons behind this seismic shift in our culture, and how should followers of Jesus respond today?"*

What are some of the reasons you've heard people give (or reasons you've given yourself) of why they're "not feeling it" when it comes to church and Christianity? In your opinion, were those feelings valid or invalid, and why?

Why is it important to realize that the feeling of God being absent is a universal problem? What proof do we have?

What is the danger of completely removing feelings from faith? What is the danger of making feelings the most important thing in your faith?

Psalm 13:1-6

1 How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

**2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?**

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look on me and answer, Lord my God.

**Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
4 and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.**



Feelings are _____, but they are not _____

How can we test our feelings to make sure they align with God?

There were four questions we asked about discerning why we feel distant from God. How could you answer these questions:

- Are you Busy?

- Are you Bored?

- Are you Blind to unconfessed sin?

- Are you a Believer?

John 15:4,9-11

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me... “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Dilan mentioned Worship and Community, but how do you personally abide in Jesus?

What would you say to a friend or family member who told you, “I am just not feeling it anymore”