

God on Mute: Engaging the Silence

The Prayer Course II: Unanswered Prayer Week 1:

Watch the film - Session 1

<https://youtu.be/IFk6QLQUmmc>

29m34s

Here are some discussion questions:

Q. What did you find most helpful, inspiring or challenging in what Pete Greig, Gemma Hunt and Bob Sorge shared?

Q. Pete Greig said that we need to talk about unanswered prayer for three reasons: emotional, intellectual and cultural. Which feels most relevant to you at the present moment as you begin this series?

Q. The words of Jesus in the book of Matthew teach us to expect blessing in the midst of challenges – how does this encourage (or discourage!) you in your faith?

Q. Pete says that “there’s so much faking it” at church. If you could ask God one totally honest question about something you find difficult in your life, what would it be?

Q. When have you experienced a ‘winter season’ in your relationship with God? How did it affect your faith?

Q. Bob Sorge seems to be able to love and trust God even though he’s lived with incredible disappointment for decades. How is this possible?

Q. What, practically, do you think is needed for persevering in faith and prayer through the ‘winter seasons’ of life?

Next week’s session will explore Maundy Thursday and the most basic heart questions we all ask when we suffer: “How am I going to get through this?” To prepare for that, and to get the most out of the session, read chapters 1-6 of God on Mute. This is also available as an audiobook if you find that easier.

Closing prayer

A prayer for trust in Jesus, by Ignatius of Loyola:

O Christ Jesus,

when all is darkness

and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength.

Help us to have perfect trust

in Your protecting love

and strengthening power,

so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to You,

we shall see Your hand,

Your purpose, Your will through all things.

— taken from God on Mute, chapter 4

Further resources & reflection

Journaling question

As I begin this journey into unanswered prayer, what do I want to explore, unpack or contemplate?

Daily devotions

At the back of the book that accompanies this course - *God on Mute* - you will find "God UnMute" – a forty day devotional journey. You may like to begin using this resource each day while we are doing this course together, to help you process and pray at a much deeper level.

Reflect on...

Read the poem *Silent God* by Edwina Gateley ¹

*This is my prayer—
That, though I may not see,
I be aware
Of the Silent God
Who stands by me.
That, though I may not feel,
I be aware
Of the Mighty Love
Which doggedly follows me.
That, though I may not respond,
I be aware
That God—my Silent, Mighty God,
Waits each day.
Quietly, hopefully, persistently.
Waits each day and through each night
For me.
For me—alone.*

Books

God on Mute, Pete Greig