

Week 2 Group Session

Group Session

Connect (0–10 minutes)

Purpose: Surface the experience of prolonged waiting and unanswered prayer.

Choose one:

- What is harder for you: waiting without answers or receiving an answer you don't like?
- How do you usually respond when waiting stretches longer than expected?
- What emotions rise when silence feels prolonged?

Leader Note: Do not rush toward encouragement. Let the weight of waiting be named.

Teaching (15 minutes — FULL SCRIPT)

Why Aren't You Answering?

Waiting changes the questions we ask.

At first, waiting sounds hopeful. We pray. We trust. We expect movement. But when silence stretches on, the questions change. We stop asking *when* and start asking *why*. And if we're honest, we sometimes wonder whether God has stopped responding altogether.

Psalm 77 is written from that place.

This is not a momentary pause. The psalmist is exhausted. He prays through the night. He remembers God's promises. And yet, his distress deepens. Silence has lingered long enough to test not just his patience, but his understanding of who God is.

"Will the Lord reject forever?"

"Has His loving devotion ceased?"

"Has God forgotten to be gracious?"

These are dangerous questions — unless they are brought to God.

Psalm 77 teaches us something critical: **prolonged silence tests our memory before it tests our faith.**

The psalmist begins overwhelmed by the present. Silence has narrowed his vision. All he can see is what God is not doing. But something shifts in the middle of the psalm. He makes a

deliberate decision.

“I will remember the deeds of the Lord.”

Remembering is not denial. It is discipline.

God’s people have always been called to remember — especially when circumstances tempt them to forget. Memory anchors faith when feelings drift. When present answers are missing, past faithfulness becomes a lifeline.

The psalmist remembers God’s mighty acts. He remembers deliverance that once seemed impossible. He remembers that God made a way through the sea when there was no way forward.

And while remembering does not instantly remove his pain, it steadies him.

Silence does not erase God’s track record.

Often, God withholds immediate answers not to punish His people, but to teach them to trust His character. Faith grows not only by receiving answers, but by remembering who God has already proven Himself to be.

Psalm 77 invites us to do the same.

When silence lingers, we do not invent new truths.

We rehearse old ones.

We remember faithfully.

Discussion (50–55 minutes)

Movement 1 — Instruction

What Is True About God?

Scripture (BSB): Psalm 77

In the Day of Trouble I Sought the LORD

For the choirmaster. According to Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph.

- 1 I cried out to God; I cried aloud to God to hear me.
- 2 In the day of trouble I sought the Lord; through the night my outstretched hands did not grow weary; my soul refused to be comforted.
- 3 I remembered You, O God, and I groaned; I mused and my spirit grew faint. Selah
- 4 You have kept my eyes from closing; I am too troubled to speak.
- 5 I considered the days of old, the years long in the past.

6 At night I remembered my song; in my heart I mused, and my spirit pondered:

7 “Will the Lord spurn us forever and never show His favor again?

8 Is His loving devotion gone forever? Has His promise failed for all time?

9 Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has His anger shut off His compassion?” Selah

10 So I said, “I am grieved that the right hand of the Most High has changed.”

11 I will remember the works of the LORD; yes, I will remember Your wonders of old.

12 I will reflect on all You have done and ponder Your mighty deeds.

13 Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

14 You are the God who works wonders; You display Your strength among the peoples.

15 With power You redeemed Your people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah

16 The waters saw You, O God; the waters saw You and swirled; even the depths were shaken.

17 The clouds poured down water; the skies resounded with thunder; Your arrows flashed back and forth.

18 Your thunder resounded in the whirlwind; the lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked.

19 Your path led through the sea, Your way through the mighty waters, but Your footprints were not to be found.

20 You led Your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

- What does this psalm reveal about God’s character?
- Where do you see God described through His past actions?
- Why might remembering be essential to faith during silence?

Leader Note: Anchor discussion in who God is before moving inward.

Movement 2 — Conviction

What Does Prolonged Silence Expose in Us?

- What emotions does the psalmist express early in the psalm?
- How do those emotions resonate with your own experience?
- What does prolonged waiting tend to reveal about your fears or assumptions?

Leader Prompt: “Waiting doesn’t create these thoughts — it reveals them.”

Movement 3 — Correction

How Does Scripture Reframe Our Thinking?

- How does remembering God's faithfulness correct fearful assumptions?
- What lies about God does this psalm confront?
- How might remembering reshape how you interpret God's silence?

Movement 4 — Training

What Does Remembering Look Like as a Practice?

- How is remembering different from simply recalling facts?
- What habits help you remember God's faithfulness during waiting?
- How might disciplined remembrance strengthen trust this week?

Leader Note: Emphasize remembering as obedience, not nostalgia.

Movement 5 — Mission

How Does Remembering God Shape the Way We Love Others?

- How does fear during waiting affect the way we treat people?
- How might remembering God's faithfulness make us more patient, present, or compassionate?
- Who might be impacted by whether we trust God's past faithfulness or not?

Leader Prompt: "What we remember about God shapes how we show up for others."

Commit & Send (5–10 minutes)

Shared Confession: **God's past faithfulness anchors me while I wait.**

Prayer of Sending: "God, help us remember what You have done and live faithfully while we wait."

