

# What to Pray when God Seems Far Away

February 25, 2024 | Psalm 61 | Pastor Mike Foster

## Lord, hear me!

God hears you personally (v. 1)

God hears when you feel far away (v. 2)

God hears when you are faint (v. 2)

## Lord, help me!

God is a rock (higher than you!) (v. 2)

God is a refuge (v. 3)

God is a strong tower (v. 3)

## Lord, hold me!

Long for his presence (v. 4)

Rest in his promises (vv. 5-7)

Worship his name (v. 8)

## In Jesus' Name

Jesus is the Rock (1 Corinthians 10:3-4)

Jesus is the Tent (John 1:14, Luke 13:34)

Jesus is the King (Luke 1:31-33)

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Read Psalm 61 out loud together (you might even listen to the song about Psalm 61 referenced above). What are some specific words that stand out to you in this Psalm?
3. Is it hard or easy for you to call upon God during troubles and trials? Why?
4. Describe a time when you felt you were at "the ends of the earth" – at the end of yourself, or on the edge. What were some emotions you felt when you were in this place? Did the Lord meet you in this place? What did that look like?
5. David prays, "lead me to the rock that is higher than I." How might God lead someone like David to that place of security?
6. What do you think is the significance of the phrase "higher than I"? In what ways would this "rock" be higher than us?
7. David longs for the presence of God. Have you ever experienced the "presence of God"? Consider Psalm 139:7-10 and Colossians 2:9-10. In your own words, explain the difference between praying for the provision of God and praying for the presence of God. Why do we need both?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. In what specific ways has Jesus been a lifegiving rock in your life?
9. What would you say to someone who feels God is far away? Who feels God will not hear their prayers? What other Scriptures might you share with them?
10. Be honest – have you felt far away from God at all lately? How can you ask people to pray for you?

## FOR FURTHER ACTION/REFLECTION

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Read Psalm 13, Psalm 23, Psalm 27, Psalm 42, Psalm 46, Psalm 62, Romans 15:13, 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

Listen to this song of Psalm 61 – <https://bit.ly/psalm61song>

Listen to "Trust in God" – <https://bit.ly/trustingodsong>

Read Hope for the Despairing – <https://bit.ly/hopefordespairing>

Read The Light at the End of Ourselves – <https://bit.ly/endofourselves>

Read *The Promises of God* by Charles Spurgeon

Read *You'll Get Through This* by Max Lucado

