



I WANT TO BELIEVE

BUT...

HEARTLESS GOD

WARMING UP...

1. A common belief blocker when it comes to Christianity is the idea that God is a *heartless God*. Can you think of a time when someone wilfully chose to do something mean to you?
2. Right now in the midst of COVID it can be tempting to believe that God is heartless for not stopping the physical, economic and social consequences of COVID. However, in many passages in scripture we are encouraged to lift our eyes beyond our trouble and see with eyes of faith our Father in heaven. Passages like Psalm 121:1-2; *I lift up my eyes to the hills-where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*
Take some time to think more deeply about your life and ask, what kind of help does God bring me?

GOING DEEPER...

1. As you observe our ever-changing community do you feel there has been a collective loss of control bringing with it fear, fragility and grief. Do you agree or disagree? Does your answer raise questions about the goodness of God?

2. King David in Psalm 103 seeks to adjust our thinking so that we can see beyond the groaning of our world to a powerful creator God who is love. Take some time to read and re-read Psalm 103. What instantly jumps out to you and why?
3. Psalm 103 is an acrostic, meaning that each line starts with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. David invites us into praising God, calling our darkened emotions by faith to praise God by, *forget not all his benefits* – lets work through four of God's benefits;
 - ❖ Forgives all your sins; read verses 3a, 8-12; given that God has dealt with our biggest problem, our sin, what does that say about God? What implications does that have for your life?
 - ❖ From pit to crown; read verse 4 again; what pit did God rescue you from? What does his crown of love and compassion look like on you?
 - ❖ Satisfies your desires with Good things; read verse 5 again; when God made the world he said it was *good*. When God made you he said it was *very good*. How does God's good and our worldly good differ?

David uses the poetic symbol of the eagle to equate God's goodness and our renewal. How does God renew you?

 - ❖ Our mortality, God's everlasting love; read verses 14-18; contrasting our mortality with God's everlasting love that crowns those who fear him is hard for us to grasp. What does it look like to fear the lord today?

BRINGING IT HOME...

1. **Despite our circumstance, God is not heartless! Granted it takes faith to both believe and see the love of God in a crisis. How does remembering the benefits of God shape the way that you worship God this week?**