**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Nine Months Longer**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [Luke 1:6–25](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk1.6-25), [57–66](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk1.57-66).

**Consider**

Do you influence your friends and family? How do you display your faith to others when you’re waiting on God to answer your prayer? Consider Zechariah and Elizabeth. They continued to serve God faithfully when their prayers weren’t immediately answered, and they also served God faithfully in their joyful moments.

People were likely watching their lives. People watch you, too. Zechariah praised God when his prayer was answered. The best part? His neighbors also rejoiced with him. They were able to witness a miracle from God because of Zechariah’s dependence on God during a time he had to wait.

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| **QUESTION**How do you want others to describe you as you are waiting for God to answer your prayers? |

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| **QUESTION**What can you learn from Zechariah and how he handled this situation? |

**Reflect**

It’s easy to be faithful to God when things are going well. The challenge is being faithful when going through hardships and wondering if God is near. In those moments, we shouldn’t be led by our emotions, but by God’s truth. We can still be faithful, even if we don’t feel that God is doing something on our behalf. A great way to show Jesus to others is for them to see us walk through hard moments and choose to still be faithful to Him.

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| **QUESTION**How will you respond to God delaying answers to your prayers after reading this story? |

**Activate**

Share with a few friends or family members about something that God is doing in your life or something difficult that God is walking with you in. It can be a testimony or even a prayer request.

**Pray**

God, help me to show my friends and family that I trust You and Your timing. Whether I am going through something difficult or easy, help me to point all attention back to You. May the way I respond to delayed answers encourage others. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 2: He’s Got You Covered**

**Engage**

Read [Psalm 91](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps91).

**Consider**

It is said that one of the most powerful things in this world is love. Think about the people in your life that you would say you love. The love you have for them motivates you. You cheer them on and are willing to do things for them. These Scripture verses say that your love for God causes Him to respond to you. He can rescue you, protect you, be with you in times of trouble, deliver you, and honor you. God is worthy of your love.

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| **QUESTION**How can you show God that you love Him? |

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| **QUESTION**How does reading verses like these encourage you to trust God, even when you don’t see answers to your prayers? |

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| **QUESTION**Which verse from this psalm is your favorite? Why? |

**Reflect**

[Psalm 91](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps91) is a favorite of many people. After reading it, you can see why. In it, God reassures us of His presence in our life. This gives us confidence to know that while we wait on Him, He is with us. It is incredible to know that our simple act of loving God invites Him to come and rescue us. Loving Him means we seek to follow His Word and His will for us the best we can. Although we aren’t perfect, He still loves us and cares for us. When we show our love for God and choose to obey and honor Him, He will reward us, both in this life and in eternity. Your love for God invites Him to work on your behalf.

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| **QUESTION**In what area of your life do you have a difficult time trusting God? |

**Activate**

Meditate on this passage. Write out the entire psalm or choose your favorite verse and memorize it. Then share the message of this psalm or the verse you’ve learned with a friend.

**Pray**

God, I love You. I just want to thank You for loving me in return. Thank You for coming to my rescue and protecting me. Thank You for loving me and offering the gift of salvation. Thank You for rewarding me and reassuring me so I don’t have to be afraid. Amen.

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**Day 3: Ever Been Afraid?**

**Engage**

Read [1 Kings 19:1–18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Ki19.1-18).

**Consider**

The feeling of defeat can make people do things they wouldn’t normally do. Like Elijah, we tend to run away and hide when we feel defeated. He was defeated to the point that he wanted to die. Hardships usher in feelings of fear, defeat, and hopelessness. But note that it’s in those moments that God often makes himself known to us. God helped Elijah by providing for him physically, and then by addressing his emotions and feelings.

Elijah had an encounter with God during the lowest point in his life. Elijah was in crisis and felt deserted, thinking that he was the only prophet left. How had God miraculously been there earlier but now seemed distant? In that moment of Elijah’s despair, God stepped in at just the right time.

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever felt like Elijah? In what ways? |

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| **QUESTION**What were some of the ways that God revealed himself to Elijah during the time he feared for his life? |

**Reflect**

Elijah ran away, wanted to die, and felt alone, but God still heard him. God made himself known in many ways. Elijah became encouraged and continued to move forward. Elijah continued to love and serve God, though he still had times of doubt. You will have those moments too, but remember, you don’t have to run away from God. During times like these, it’s best to run to Him.

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| **QUESTION**What is your natural response when you feel alone in a situation? |

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| **QUESTION**What is one thing you can do to turn from being discouraged to being encouraged? |

**Activate**

Come up with a plan of what you will do when you find yourself feeling like God has deserted you. Will you talk with a parent, text a friend, call your youth pastor, or do something else? This gives you a plan to follow when you are feeling discouraged in the future.

**Pray**

God, show me Your answer when I feel that there is no hope. Help me to see that You are close to me. Please help all those who are discouraged. Let them see You are working in their lives. I pray that they will be encouraged to come close to You during these times. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 4: Twenty-One Days**

**Engage**

Read [Daniel 10:1–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Da10.1-14).

**Consider**

Daniel was a faithful follower of God during a very difficult time in the history of God’s people. He, and many others, had been forced out of their homes and country and forcibly taken to another country. Even though he was in captivity, Daniel was a godly man who had visions from the Lord. In this passage, we read about one of those visions. Daniel was praying, but he didn’t get an answer to his prayer right away. Reading these verses may show one reason that God’s answers don’t always reach us when we think they should.

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| **QUESTION**How long did it take from the time Daniel prayed until he had the answer? |

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| **QUESTION**What was the reason Daniel’s prayer wasn’t answered right away? |

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| **QUESTION**Why would the enemy try to block answers to our prayers? |

**Reflect**

We should always remember that we are in a spiritual battle. We have a real enemy who is out to delay our prayers from being answered. The good news is that God is so much more powerful. But we still have an enemy who fights against our God and us. For this reason, we should continue praying until we hear from God with His answer. Never give up in your pursuit or in your prayers. God hears and answers the prayers of those who are following Him.

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| **QUESTION**How does knowing we are in a spiritual battle motivate you to pray more often and with greater faith? |

**Activate**

Begin a prayer journal. Write out a list of prayers in your journal. Beside them, record the date you prayed and the date the prayer was answered. You will notice some prayers are answered right away, and others may take time. Regardless, let this serve as a reminder to always call on the God who answers prayer.

**Pray**

God, I trust You. Although I don’t always see the answer right away, I trust that You have both heard my prayer and are answering it. Help me to grow in faith. Thank You that You can fight my battles for me when I am unable. Amen.

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**Day 5: Only If You Go with Me**

**Engage**

Read [Exodus 33:12–22](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ex33.12-22).

**Consider**

There are some things in life that may seem meant to be done alone. Many times, knowing that we are facing something alone can be the very thing that causes us to lose hope in ourself. In his conversation with God, Moses was being genuine and transparent. He basically called out to God, letting Him know he would only go if God went with him. He didn’t want to do anything without God’s presence. God agreed to his request, allowing Moses to experience His presence in an amazing way.

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| **QUESTION**Why did Moses want God to go with him and the Israelites? |

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| **QUESTION**What do you think it means to be in God’s presence? |

**Reflect**

God’s presence, through His Holy Spirit living in you, will also go with you. This should reassure you. Not only can we experience His presence, but we can be at peace with God, even when we don’t see answers to prayer right away. In those hard moments when we don’t know what to do, remember that His presence is already with you, and it brings rest. Be honest with God. Don’t try to hide from Him. Instead, call out to Him.

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| **QUESTION**In what areas do you need God’s presence? |

**Activate**

Take ten to fifteen minutes to spend with God. Have a conversation with Him. Ask, but also take time to listen. It could be that He wants to give a reason for His delay for the answer to your prayer.

**Pray**

God, thank You that Your presence will go with me wherever I go. May I be aware of it and find peace and hope knowing that You will never leave me. Help me to follow You in every area as I learn to trust You more. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.