

God on Mute:

Engaging the Silence

Martyn to introduce the session, (2 mins?) then

Video Bible passages from the session Luke 18:9-14, Matthew 5:3-5 [Video 30 mins]

Key points It's a sign of faith, not doubt, to wrestle with unanswered prayer. We need to talk about unanswered prayer for three reasons:

Emotionally – most of us have pain we need to process

Intellectually – we may also have questions we need answered

Culturally – sadly the church can be less honest than the Bible

'Grace groweth best in winter' (Samuel Rutherford) - Harsh winters are often the seasons in which we mature and become more fruitful

"Faith says, 'Even though I don't understand you right now, God, I love you. I believe your heart for me is good.'" – Bob Sorge

Discussion questions [30 mins] Led by Martyn, Tim, Stephen, Nina

- 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?

Closing Comments by Martyn (2 mins)
