

Reflection/Discussion Questions

September 27, 2026

Sermon: When God Feels Absent

Series: Hope In the Promises #2

Bible: Ezek. 10:18-19; 11:22-23;

Hag. 2:3-9; John 1:9-14; Matt. 1:20-23

Speaker: Pastor Mike Kleven



1. Have you ever searched hard for something—and realized you were not even sure what you were looking for?
2. U2 sang, “I still haven’t found what I’m looking for.” Where does that lyric land in your own story?
3. What does Ezekiel 10:18-19 and 11:22-23 show about why God’s glory left the temple, and what that departure cost the people?
4. In Haggai 2:3-9, why do older eyes weep over the new temple, and what four promises does God speak into those tears?
5. How does John 1:14 describe the Word “making His dwelling among us,” and why does that language matter after centuries of absence?
6. Matthew 1:23 names Jesus Immanuel. How does “God with us” answer the ache of people who still hadn’t found what they were looking for?
7. The sermon says a new temple is not the same as Presence come home. Where have you settled for a lesser thing instead of God’s nearness?
8. John 1:9-13 says many did not recognize or receive the Light. Where do you resist the Jesus who does not match your expectations?
9. Name the emptiness you feel this week. What would it look like to treat that ache as a signal pointing you to Jesus?
10. How will you live out “Your search is not for something, but for Someone—Jesus has already come looking for you” this week? Share a specific prayer request for accountability and support.