



December 23, 2018
Message Title: The Story's Climax
Teaching Pastor: Brian C. Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Key Points	
1.	Watch the Video
2.	Every Group should sit in silence for three minutes. You can close your eyes, or not, but you cannot read or use your phone or talk or be talked to. It's only 3 minutes. Someone time it.
3.	<p>Here are some quotes about silence, circle the one that resonates most with you and share that with the group.</p> <p>“We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature — trees, flowers, grass — grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. We need silence to be able to touch souls.” – Mother Teresa</p> <p>“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” – Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>“Silence at the proper season is wisdom, and better than any speech.” – Plutarch</p> <p>“I often regret that I have spoken; never that I have been silent.” – Publilius Syrus</p> <p>“Open your mouth only if what you are going to say is more beautiful than the silence.” – Spanish Proverb</p>
4.	Talk about a time in your life when you felt like God was silent. What was happening in your soul? Why do you think you couldn't hear from God during that time? Talk about this with your group

5. Here are some scriptures where the writer feels the silence of God. Take turns reading each of these out loud. After you read all of them, talk about what these people were feeling towards God. (all scriptures are NIV)

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? (Psalm 13:1)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. Psalm 22:1-2

To you, Lord, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the pit. Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place. Psalm 28:1-2

When my prayers returned to me unanswered, I went about mourning as though for my friend or brother. I bowed my head in grief as though weeping for my mother. But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee; assailants gathered against me without my knowledge. They slandered me without ceasing. Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked; they gnashed their teeth at me. How long, Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their ravages, my precious life from these lions. Psalm 35:13-17

Lord, you have seen this; do not be silent. Do not be far from me, Lord. Awake, and rise to my defense! Contend for me, my God and Lord. (Ps 35:22-23)

Hear my prayer, Lord, listen to my cry for help; do not be deaf to my weeping. (Ps 39:12)

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. (Ps 42:1-4)

6. During the message on Sunday, Pastor Brian said that while God may be silent, it doesn't mean he's still. From the earliest part of the Bible, God has been active and moving on behalf of creation, and mostly on behalf of human beings. Explore for a few minutes together what God might be doing behind the scenes in your life and what might be coming from him that's good for you.

Notes: