



## Part 2: Surrender

When we enter a difficult season of life and don't sense God moving in the way or on the timetable we would prefer, it is easy for us to revert to old ways, patterns, or relationships. It's not that we abandon our faith in God, but we settle for substitutes of him. We've experienced enough in life to know that substitutes for God never truly satisfy.

**Bottom Line:** Substitutes for God always fail us.

### Discussion Questions:

1. As a child, what was your favorite toy, stuffed animal, or blanket? Why was it your favorite?
2. **Read Exodus 31:18 - 32:8.** What stands out to you from this passage? What surprises you? What questions does this passage raise? What insights do you see?
3. The Israelites weren't looking for a substitute for God; they simply reverted to what was familiar to them and added it on to God. They may have been weary from Moses' absence and God's apparent silence. What things are you most tempted to revert to or grab hold of to take control of a situation or numb your pain?
4. When have you had a hard season where it felt like God was missing? If this is your current season, what do you hope that God might be doing during this time, even though God seems silent or distant?
5. What has it been like for you to sit in the discomfort of your trials and trouble? As you feel comfortable, share with the group.
6. How are some ways you have found helpful to stay connected to God during difficult times? During "normal" times?
7. How have you benefited from your consistent connection to God's people?
8. What do you need to do differently because of what we have talked about tonight? What do you sense God might be challenging you to think/do/believe differently?
9. Take a moment to identify someone you know who may be having a difficult time. What is a simple way that you can encourage them and help them get through what they are going through?
10. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you? How can the group pray for or encourage you this week?

\*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.