**WEAVER STUDY GUIDES**

# When God Hides His Face

*Study Guide*

Covenant Theology

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

# Contents

**Lesson 1: When God Hides His Face - 1 . . . . . 3**

Major Themes . . . . . 3

Key Arguments . . . . . 4

Scripture References . . . . . 5

Discussion Questions . . . . . 7

Applications . . . . . 9

Personal Application and Notes . . . . . 10

**Lesson 2: When God Hides His Face - 2 . . . . . 11**

Major Themes . . . . . 11

Key Arguments . . . . . 12

Scripture References . . . . . 13

Discussion Questions . . . . . 16

Applications . . . . . 19

Personal Application and Notes . . . . . 20

**Online Lecture Resources . . . . . 21**

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# Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

# When God Hides His Face - 1

June 18, 2006

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-19 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

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## Major Themes

### The Seriousness of God Hiding His Face

When God hides His face, it is not a game but a sign of judgment or chastisement, with grave implications.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'whenever the Bible talks about God hiding His face, you can rest assured that there are very grave implications involved' and cites Hebrews 10:27.

### Human Sin as the Cause of Separation

The sole reason God withdraws is human iniquity; there is no fault in God.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'the reason that God withdraws Himself is because of our sins... There is no fault in God. It is wholly and completely and totally our fault.'

### Hypocrisy in Religious Practice

God condemns those who perform religious rituals while their hearts are far from Him and they live in sin.

**Lecture support:** Weaver references Isaiah 58 and 29:13, noting the people 'draw near to me with their mouth... but have removed their heart from me.'

### God's Unchanging Power and Hearing

God's hand is not shortened (His power is undiminished) and His ear is not heavy (He is not deaf); the problem is never with God.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains the figures of speech and cites Deuteronomy 4:24, 5:15, 7:19, 9:29, Psalm 136:10-12, Isaiah 23:11, 45:12.

### The Law of Retribution (Lex Talionis)

God makes the punishment fit the crime: because people do not listen to God, He does not listen to them.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'God always makes the punishment fit the crime... you won't listen to Me. I won't listen to you.'

### Sin Builds a Wall of Separation

Sin not only brings judgment but creates a partition between believers and God, hiding His face.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'sin builds a wall of partition between us and our Lord' and quotes Isaiah 59:2.

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## Key Arguments

### God's withdrawal is always due to human sin, not divine limitation.

Weaver argues that Isaiah 59:1-2 clearly teaches that the fault lies entirely with the people, not with God's ability or willingness to save.

**Lecture support:** He says, 'the reason that God withdraws Himself is because of our sins... There is no fault in God.'

### Religious hypocrisy provokes God to hide His face.

The context of Isaiah 58 shows that God rejects empty rituals performed by those who live in sin and then blame God for not answering.

**Lecture support:** Weaver reads Isaiah 58:1-7 and notes their complaint, 'Wherefore have we fasted... and thou seest not?'

### God's power and hearing are undiminished, as proven by Scripture.

Using multiple Old Testament passages, Weaver demonstrates that 'hand' and 'arm' symbolize God's power, and He is not deaf; the problem is human sin.

**Lecture support:** He cites Deuteronomy 4:24, 5:15, 7:19, 9:29, Psalm 136:10-12, Isaiah 23:11, 45:12.

### Sin separates us from God and must be repented of.

Weaver concludes that when believers cannot perceive God's blessing, they must examine themselves and repent, because the fault is theirs.

**Lecture support:** He says, 'the fault is not in God, it's in you. You need to repent.'

## Scripture References

### Isaiah 59:1-2

Primary text: God's hand is not shortened, His ear not heavy, but sins have separated and hidden His face.

### Hebrews 10:27

Cited to show the fearful judgment awaiting adversaries when God withdraws.

### John 4:24

Used to prove God is Spirit and does not have a physical body.

### Isaiah 59:3-8

Read to enumerate the specific sins of the people that caused God to hide His face.

### Isaiah 59:9-14

Referenced to show that sin merits and draws forth God's judgment.

### Romans 11:6

Quoted to explain that grace and works are mutually exclusive; mercy is by grace alone.

### Isaiah 58:1-7

Read to show the hypocrisy of the people who fasted and prayed yet lived in sin.

### Isaiah 29:13

Cited to show God's previous accusation of hypocrisy: honoring with lips but hearts far from Him.

### Deuteronomy 4:24

Mentioned in passing as a good verse about God being a consuming fire.

### Deuteronomy 5:15

Used to show God's mighty hand and stretched-out arm in delivering Israel from Egypt.

### Deuteronomy 7:19

Cited to illustrate God's mighty hand and stretched-out arm in bringing Israel out of Egypt.

**Deuteronomy 9:29**

Quoted to connect God's mighty power with His stretched-out arm.

**Psalm 136:10-12**

Read to show God's strong hand and stretched-out arm in smiting Egypt and bringing out Israel.

**Isaiah 23:11**

Cited to show God stretching out His hand over the sea and shaking kingdoms.

**Isaiah 45:12**

Quoted to show God's hands stretched out the heavens, demonstrating His power.

**Numbers 11:23**

Referenced to ask rhetorically if the Lord's hand has waxed short.

**Psalm 115:4-7**

Read to contrast dumb idols that cannot hear with God who is not deaf.

**Proverbs 20:12**

Quoted to argue that the God who made hearing ears can certainly hear Himself.

**Jeremiah 33:3**

Cited to show God is willing to hear and answer biblical prayers.

**Isaiah 65:24**

Quoted to show God answers even before we call.

Study notes

## Discussion Questions

**1.** How does understanding 'God hiding His face' as anthropomorphic language affect your view of God's presence and absence?

**Consider:** Weaver explains that the phrase is a figure of speech meaning God withdraws His manifest favor, not His omnipresence.

**2.** In what ways might modern Christians be guilty of the same hypocrisy condemned in Isaiah 58?

**Consider:** Weaver draws parallels between the Israelites' empty rituals and contemporary religious practice without heart change.

**3.** Why is it tempting to blame God for tragedies, and how does Isaiah 59:1-2 correct that tendency?

**Consider:** Weaver addresses the common accusation that God must be powerless or unloving when disasters occur.

**4.** What does the 'law of retribution' (Lex Talionis) teach us about the relationship between our listening to God and His listening to us?

**Consider:** Weaver explains that God makes the punishment fit the crime: if we don't hear Him, He won't hear us.

**5.** How can we practically examine ourselves to see if sin has built a wall between us and God?

**Consider:** Weaver concludes that when we cannot perceive God's blessing, we must repent and seek Him.

## Applications

### Examine your heart for unconfessed sin when God seems distant.

Instead of blaming God for unanswered prayer or lack of blessing, believers should search their lives for sin that may have caused separation.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'the fault is not in God, it's in you. You need to repent.'

### Avoid hypocritical religiosity.

Going through religious motions while harboring sin and oppressing others provokes God to hide His face; true worship requires a heart near to God.

**Lecture support:** Weaver condemns the attitude of Isaiah 58: 'all they've got is the ceremony. All they've got is the ritual.'

### Trust in God's unchanging power and willingness to hear.

God's hand is not shortened and His ear is not heavy; He is able and ready to answer biblical prayers, so believers should pray with confidence when in right relationship with Him.

**Lecture support:** Weaver cites Jeremiah 33:3, Isaiah 65:24, and John 14:13-14 to show God's readiness to hear.

### Take responsibility for national and personal sin.

Rather than blaming wicked rulers or circumstances, God's people must humble themselves, repent, and seek His face for healing.

**Lecture support:** Weaver quotes 2 Chronicles 7:14 and says, 'The problem is not with them. In reality, it's with us.'

Study notes

## Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

# When God Hides His Face - 2

June 25, 2006

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 21-37 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

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## Major Themes

### Consequences of Sin

Sin inevitably leads to consequences, including God hiding His face and withdrawing His blessings, as a just response to disobedience.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'all of our actions have consequences... we want to sin, but not die. We want to dance, but not to pay the piper.' He cites Galatians 6:7-8 and Romans 2:2,6.

### Withdrawal of God's Manifest Presence

When God hides His face, He removes the perception of His presence, making worship, prayer, and service feel dry and empty.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'God refuses to give us a manifestation of His presence... you and I cannot perceive or comprehend His hand of blessings upon us.' He references Hosea 5:6 and Job 19:7.

### Lex Talionis (Law of Retribution)

God's punishment fits the crime: because people refuse to hear Him, He refuses to hear them, hiding His face in just retribution.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'God always makes the punishment fit the crime... You don't hear me. I will not hear you.' He cites Isaiah 1:15, 30:9, Jeremiah 14:12, Micah 3:4, and Malachi 2:2.

### Presuming on God's Mercy

Believers often presume upon God's grace, thinking they can sin without consequence, but God will not be mocked and will withdraw His face.

**Lecture support:** Weaver warns, 'one of the greatest sins... is we presume upon His mercy and presume upon His grace... we think... we can sin just a little and get by with it. We can't.'

### Judgment as Consequence

The withdrawal of God's presence leads to judgment, including evils, troubles, and desolation, as God allows people to suffer the fruit of their own ways.

**Lecture support:** Weaver reads Deuteronomy 31:17: 'I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them.' He also references Deuteronomy 32:20-26.

### Repentance and Restoration

To avoid God hiding His face, believers must repent, listen to God, obey Him, and maintain consistent communion through prayer.

**Lecture support:** Weaver concludes, 'we must repent and seek Him for restoration. We must make it a daily habit of listening to Him, obeying Him, communing with Him.'

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## Key Arguments

### Sin separates from God and causes Him to hide His face.

Isaiah 59:1-2 clearly states that iniquities separate people from God and cause Him to hide His face, which is the foundational cause of the consequences discussed.

**Lecture support:** Weaver reads Isaiah 59:1-2: 'your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you that He will not hear.'

### God's hiding His face is a withdrawal of manifest presence, not omnipresence.

God is omnipresent, but when He hides His face, He withdraws the perception of His blessings and presence, making it impossible to discern Him.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'when we talk about God withdrawing His presence... it is not that God goes into the corner... He's just simply withdrawn His gracious presence.'

### All actions have consequences, and God judges according to truth and deeds.

Using Galatians 6:7-8 and Romans 2:2,6, Weaver argues that sowing to the flesh reaps corruption, and God's judgment is based on truth and renders to every man according to his deeds.

**Lecture support:** Weaver quotes Galatians 6:7-8: 'Be not deceived, God is not mocked. For whatsoever man soweth, that shall he also reap.'

### When God hides His face, worship and prayer become vain and unanswered.

Passages like Hosea 5:6 and Job 19:7 show that seeking God through rituals yields no finding, and crying out results in no answer, likened to a brass heaven.

**Lecture support:** Weaver reads Hosea 5:6: 'They shall go with their flocks... to seek the Lord, but they shall not find him. He has withdrawn himself from them.'

### God's refusal to hear is a just retribution for refusing to hear Him.

The lex talionis principle means God hides His face and refuses to hear because people first refused to hear and obey Him, as seen in Isaiah 1:15 and other texts.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'God is saying, "You don't hear me. I will not hear you."' He cites Isaiah 1:15: 'when you spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you.'

### Presuming on God's mercy leads to His withdrawal and eventual judgment.

Proverbs 1:24-31 warns that when people refuse wisdom's call, God will laugh at their calamity and not answer when they call, illustrating the danger of presumption.

**Lecture support:** Weaver reads Proverbs 1:24-26: 'Because I have called, and you refused... I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh.'

### God's hiding His face results in judgment and desolation.

Deuteronomy 31:17 and 32:20-26 describe that when God hides His face, evils, troubles, and destruction follow, as God allows people to suffer the consequences of their rebellion.

**Lecture support:** Weaver reads Deuteronomy 31:17: 'I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them.'

### Consistent prayer and obedience are necessary to avoid God hiding His face.

Daniel's example (Daniel 6:10) shows that effective prayer in crisis comes from a habit of prayer before crisis; believers must listen to God daily to ensure He hears them.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'The way to pray effectively when you're in trouble is to be used to praying before you get into trouble.' He references Daniel 6:10.

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## Scripture References

### Isaiah 59:1-2

The foundational text for the sermon, stating that sin separates from God and causes Him to hide His face.

### Isaiah 59:3-4

Describes the sins of the people: hands defiled with blood, lips speaking lies, etc., as the cause of separation.

### Isaiah 59:12-14

Further lists transgressions and iniquities that testify against the people, leading to God's withdrawal.

### Galatians 6:7-8

Used to illustrate that sowing to the flesh reaps corruption, emphasizing consequences of sin.

### Romans 2:2, 6

God's judgment is according to truth, and He renders to every man according to his deeds.

**Hosea 5:6**

People seek the Lord with sacrifices but do not find Him because He has withdrawn Himself.

**Leviticus 26:18-19**

God threatens to punish seven times more and make heaven as iron and earth as brass for disobedience.

**Deuteronomy 28:23**

Parallel to Leviticus 26:19, describing heaven as brass and earth as iron as a curse.

**Job 19:7**

Job cries out of wrong but is not heard, illustrating the feeling of heaven being brass.

**Isaiah 1:10-15**

God rejects the sacrifices and prayers of His people because their hands are full of blood; He will hide His eyes and not hear.

**Isaiah 30:9-11**

Rebellious children who will not hear the law of the Lord, telling seers to prophesy smooth things.

**Jeremiah 14:10-12**

God tells Jeremiah not to pray for the people; He will not hear their fasts or accept their offerings.

**Jeremiah 22:21**

God spoke in prosperity, but Israel said, 'I will not hear,' and this has been their manner from youth.

**Micah 3:4**

They will cry to the Lord, but He will not hear them; He will hide His face because of their evil doings.

**Malachi 2:2**

If they will not hear and give glory to God's name, He will send a curse and curse their blessings.

**Song of Solomon 5:2-6**

The bride delays opening to the bridegroom, and when she does, he has withdrawn; she seeks but does not find him.

**Proverbs 1:22-31**

Wisdom calls but is refused; therefore, God will laugh at calamity and not answer when they call.

**Deuteronomy 31:17**

God will hide His face, and evils and troubles will befall them; they will realize God is not among them.

**Deuteronomy 32:20-26**

God will hide His face and see their end; a fire of anger will consume them, and mischiefs will be heaped upon them.

**Daniel 6:10**

Daniel prayed three times a day as before, illustrating consistent prayer that prepares for crisis.

Study notes

## Discussion Questions

**1.** How does understanding God's omnipresence help us interpret what it means when He 'hides His face'?

**Consider:** Weaver explains that God is everywhere but withdraws His manifest presence, not His essential being.

**2.** In what ways do we, like Israel, presume upon God's mercy and think we can sin without consequence?

**Consider:** Weaver warns that presuming on God's grace is a common sin that leads to His withdrawal.

**3.** How does the lex talionis (law of retribution) apply to our relationship with God today?

**Consider:** Weaver argues that God's refusal to hear us is a just response to our refusal to hear Him.

**4.** What practical steps can we take to ensure we are listening to God daily, rather than just crying out in crises?

**Consider:** Weaver uses Daniel's example to stress consistent prayer and obedience before trouble comes.

**5.** How can we discern whether a dry spiritual season is due to God hiding His face or other factors?

**Consider:** Weaver suggests checking oneself for sin when prayers seem unanswered and heaven feels like brass.

**6.** What does the illustration from Song of Solomon teach us about the urgency of responding to God's call?

**Consider:** The bride's delay caused the bridegroom to withdraw, showing that procrastination in obedience can lead to loss of presence.

**7.** How should the reality of God's judgment as a consequence of His hidden face affect our evangelism and warnings to others?

**Consider:** Weaver describes the severe judgments in Deuteronomy 31-32 when God hides His face.

**8.** In what ways might modern churches be experiencing a 'brass heaven' due to unconfessed sin or disobedience?

**Consider:** Weaver compares the dry, hollow worship described in Hosea to many modern churches.

# Applications

### Self-Examination in Prayer

When prayers seem unanswered and heaven feels like brass, examine your life for unconfessed sin, as the problem is not with God but with you.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'When our prayers are cold and hypocritical and unanswered... check yourself. The problem is not with God... It is your sins that have separated.'

### Heed God's Voice Promptly

Do not delay obedience or presume on God's mercy; respond immediately to His Word to avoid His withdrawal.

**Lecture support:** Weaver warns, 'one of the surest ways to experience the hiding of God's face is to take Him for granted and presume upon Him.'

### Consistent Prayer Life

Develop a habit of daily prayer and communion with God, so that in times of crisis, your prayers are effective and you are accustomed to His presence.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'The way to pray effectively when you're in trouble is to be used to praying before you get into trouble,' citing Daniel 6:10.

### Repentance and Restoration

If you sense God has hidden His face, repent and seek Him for restoration, making it a daily habit to listen, obey, and commune with Him.

**Lecture support:** Weaver concludes, 'we must repent and seek Him for restoration. We must make it a daily habit of listening to Him, obeying Him, communing with Him.'

### Value God's Manifest Presence

Recognize that the greatest danger of sin is losing the sense of God's presence; strive to live in a way that invites His smile rather than His hidden face.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'the greatest danger in sin is the loss of the manifest presence of God... I want His smile. Not the hiding of His face.'

### Avoid Subsidizing Rebellion

In family or church discipline, allow natural consequences for sin rather than constantly bailing out the rebellious, as God does when He hides His face to let people see their end.

**Lecture support:** Weaver applies Deuteronomy 32:20: 'God said, "I'll hide my face from them and I will see what their end will be."' He relates this to parenting rebellious teenagers.

## Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

## Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

**Lesson 1: When God Hides His Face - 1**

Lecture JW00926

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00926&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

**Lesson 2: When God Hides His Face - 2**

Lecture JW00925

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00925&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

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## Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.