



Hope When It Hurts

Bryan Jones
May 7, 2023

► Outline

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4 (NIV)

A. Introduction

B. Remember... (Psalm 23)

1. God is _____ and _____.
(Psalm 23:1-2)

2. We _____ and _____.
(Psalm 23:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13)

3. The most central promise in the Bible is “ _____
_____.”
(Psalm 23:4)

4. Something _____ awaits.
(Psalm 23:5-6)

Answers: 1. personal, powerful 2. hope, grieve 3. I will be with you 4. better

Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

When did you first experience loss?

Prayer

Spend a few minutes slowing down. Allow enough time for your mind to stop racing and your heart to experience a sense of calm. As you begin this week's lesson, ask God to reveal Himself to you in new and beautiful ways. Say yes in your spirit to all He has for you.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read Psalm 23.

1. What does a shepherd provide for his sheep (as described in this passage)? In what ways have you experienced Jesus as a shepherd?
2. Describe a time the Lord restored you.
3. How can the promise of eternity with Christ change the way you respond to loss?
4. What part of Psalm 23 is most encouraging to you?
5. Think of a time you experienced the loss of someone you loved. What questions did you wrestle with? Did you feel you needed to hide your grief, or could you grieve openly? What was that like?
6. Have you ever suffered with joy? If so, how did you get there?
7. How has grief or suffering changed you?
8. Has anyone taught you how to deal with loss? What did they say?

9. Who can you count on during times of grief? What is it about this person you find comforting?

10. How can you encourage someone to have hope without casually dismissing their real suffering and pain? What approaches are usually unhelpful?

11. In what way is grief evidence of God?

12. How does one person's suffering, in some way, belong to all of us?

Over all injustice, all pain, all suffering, stands a sovereign God who works His plan of salvation over, against, and even through evil.
R.C. Sproul, *Surprised by Suffering*

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is something we can do to help us live in and enjoy God's grace. Our hope is that these would become a regular part of your life, so that walking and talking with God is the most natural thing you do.

Pray for people you know who are experiencing suffering, grief or loss. Ask God to continue making Brookwood a place of comfort for those who are lost and hurting. For further reflection, read *The Problem of Pain* by C.S. Lewis.

Memory Verse

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **Psalm 23:4 (NIV)**

Daily Reading

Day 1: Matthew 5:1-12

Day 4: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Day 2: Isaiah 53:3-4

Day 5: Revelation 21:1-5

Day 3: John 16:22

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, May 14, we'll gather for **A Morning of Worship**. To prepare your heart, read **Psalm 145**. *Let's sing praises to the God who saves!*

