

Sermon: Those who mourn

Matthew 5:1-4

Who are those who mourn?

The beatitudes only apply to _____.

2 Corinthians 7:10

To mourn is to _____.

The sorrow may be from _____.

The sorrow may be from _____.

James 4:7-10

God's comfort for those who mourn

God's cares about us _____.

2 Corinthians 1:3-6

God has promised to _____.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 2 Samuel 12:23

One day, suffering and loss will _____.

Revelation 21:4

Comfort is not enough of a blessing

Mourning has _____.

Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Mourning *may* _____.

Psalm 34:18

Bible study: Those who mourn

Getting to know you

1. Last Sunday's sermon was on the blessing of mourning. Is there anything about the sermon that you would like to discuss in your growth group?
2. Have you dealt with grief in your own life or in the lives of anyone close to you? What surprises you about grief?

Going deeper

3. Read John 11:1-16. It seems that Jesus deliberately delayed, choosing to let Lazarus die. What could be a justifiable rationale for this action?
4. Read John 11:17-37. What are the sisters' first reactions to seeing Jesus? What emotion do you think they are expressing? Is this similar to how you react to loss?

5. How does Jesus react to grief? Is anything surprising or otherwise notable? Would Jesus' attitudes and actions help Mary and Martha?
6. Verses 36 and 37 describe the reactions of other observers on the scene. How do people express these ideas today?
7. Read John 11:38-44. This story has a happy ending. What do we do with stories that don't have such a clear, happy resolution?

Putting it into practice

8. Reflect on whether your relationship with God is being hindered by and experiences of loss in your life. Can you ask God to reveal his purposes in those losses? Can you trust God and make peace with him even if he doesn't reveal his purpose?