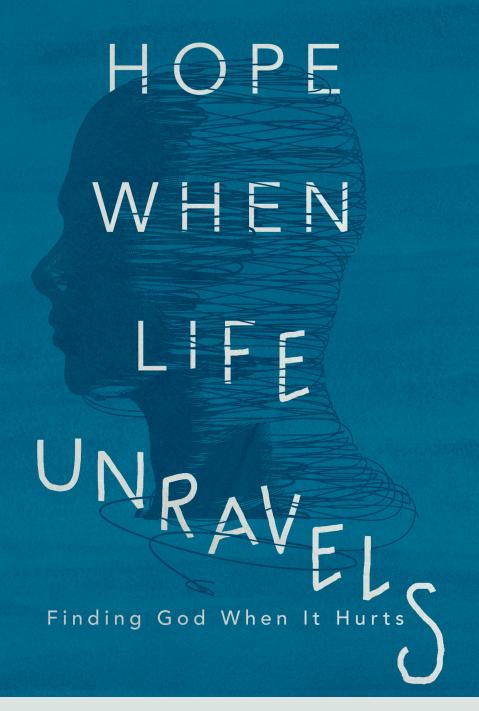
ADAM B. DOOLEY



A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

INTRODUCTION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the worst news you have ever received? How did you handle it?
- 2. Has any particular circumstance or trial compelled you to pick up this book?
- 3. Do any of your questions about suffering hinder your relationship with God?

WHO'S REALLY TO BLAME FOR OUR SUFFERING?

- 1. What is it about the author's reflections in this chapter that resonates with you most?
- 2. Do you feel guilty when you question God's activity in your life?
- 3. What is the ultimate cause of all the pain that is in the world today?
- **4.** Why is walking through trials so difficult, even though we can grasp their origin?
- 5. Where can you find hope when you are hurting the worst?

THE DARK SIDEOF GOD'S LOVE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Have you ever wanted something from God that contradicted what you needed?
- 2. Can you trust God even when He concludes that a trial will be beneficial for you?
- **3.** What, if anything, should we conclude about others when they face hardship?
- **4.** How can you acknowledge your struggles without diminishing your hope?



- 1. What are some trite explanations people offer for complex trials, and how can they be offensive?
- 2. What are examples of dark moments in your life when God was faithful to bear your burdens?
- 3. How has the body of Christ supported you during seasons of testing?
- 4. Are there particular Scripture passages that have sustained and comforted you?

IT'S NOT ALWAYS ABOUT YOU

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Do you sometimes feel more deserving of trials than others?
- 2. How can the personal nature of calamities cloud your view of God and His agenda?
- **3.** How can God's hidden purposes help you cope with the painful realities you face?

DON'T WASTE YOUR PAIN

- 1. Have you, like the author, ever faced a trial so severe that its accompanying emotions resurfaced repeatedly?
- 2. How do the potential outcomes of your burdens encourage you?
- **3.** What other positive consequences might emerge after the dust of your anxieties settles?
- 4. How can you maintain your eternal hope when your earthly challenges discourage you?

× HANGING ON S FOR DEAR LIFE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. At what point in your life has God felt the most absent to you?
- 2. How does the assurance of God's sustained presence relieve the fears surrounding your troubles?
- 3. When has remembering what God did for you in the past helped you trust who God is in the present?
- **4.** How do your feelings betray you when you are under great strain?
- 5. Does the work of Jesus on the cross prove God's presence with you today?

Z LIFE WITH AN > UNINVITED GUEST

- 1. Do you face a sustained burden that you fear will never go away?
- 2. How does the temporary nature of trials change your perspective about eternity?
- 3. Why does the Bible teach that trials are a necessary means of spiritual growth?
- 4. How can you choose joy when you feel defeated or scared?

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is most offensive about the anonymous letter the author received?
- 2. How can bad theology result in your hurting someone else?
- **3.** Have you ever been wounded by the careless words of another while you were suffering?
- 4. Which of the errors listed in the chapter is most common today?
- 5. How should you respond to those who speak to you carelessly?

THE MOST COURAGEOUS FAITH

- 1. Has anyone ever questioned your faith because of a miracle they perceived to be unclaimed in your life?
- 2. In your view, what is the greatest expression of genuine faith?
- 3. Does God always give us the miracles we ask Him for?
 Why or why not?
- 4. What is the difference between a trial and a consequence?
- 5. How should we understand the prayer of faith?

THE ANSWERS YOU WEREN'T LOOKING FOR

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Has the suffering of others ever caused fear in your own heart?
- 2. What is the thin line between questioning God and correcting Him?
- 3. Why do you suppose both faith and fear manifest during the same hardship?
- 4. What does God's response to Job teach you about your greatest need?

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

- To what degree would you say you have experienced God's peace?
- 2. How do worldly distractions restrict your ability to rest in God's peace?
- 3. What priorities should drive your life if you want to resist anxiety?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How does the end of a trial change your perception of God's work in our lives?
- 2. How does your desire for comfort often distort your view of God?
- 3. What valuable lessons has the suffering in your life taught you?
- 4. How should you respond to God when your circumstances do not resolve like you hoped they would?
- 5. Why is it so difficult to worship God when troubles are present?

LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

- 1. Have you found it difficult to move on after a traumatic experience?
- 2. Why does God choose to use the weak rather than the strong?
- 3. In what areas of your life do you need to surrender more fully to the Lord?

EPILOGUE

- 1. What biblical promises in this book are the most meaningful to you?
- 2. How can you be sure that you are born again?