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HOPE
WHEN
LIFE
UNRAVELS

Finding God When It Hurts

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?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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?

TWO THE DARK SIDE OF 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?

THREE MORE THAN YOU CAN BEAR

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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?

FOUR 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?

FIVE DON'T WASTE YOUR PAIN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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?

X I S 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?

N E V E S LIFE WITH AN UNINVITED GUEST

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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?

EIGHT 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?

ENIN THE MOST COURAGEOUS FAITH

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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?

ELEVEN LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. 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?

TWELVE WHEN THE DAWN BREAKS

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?

THIRTEEN LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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