

Hope When It Hurts #5 – Disappointment with God

Psalm 88:1-18

We ALL Experience Disappointment with God

Our Struggles with God

- 1- Feeling _____
- 2- Feeling _____
- 3- Feeling unfairly _____
- 4- Feeling _____
- 5- Feeling _____
- 6- Feeling _____

Hope in Our Deepest Disappointments

God can handle your _____ lament.
Therefore:

God is with you in your _____ pain.
Therefore:

God _____ you more than you can imagine.
Therefore:

Small-Group Curriculum

Getting Started:

- (1) Philip Yancey says, "faith means believing in advance what will only make sense in reverse." How does that relate to walking through pain in your life?

- (2) What have you learned during this series that has helped you the most in your spiritual growth?

Getting Deep:

- (1) Read Psalm 88:1-9. How would you describe the psalmist's relationship with God? From reading his words, what do you think he has experienced that has caused him to be in a place of such desperation and pain?

- (2) Read Psalm 88:10-18. Using your own words, how would you describe the emotional state of the psalmist? How does he feel about his circumstances and about the Lord's response to his prayers?

- (3) Read Psalm 22:1-5 and Matthew 27:45-50. How do the words of Psalm 22 compare to the words of Psalm 88? Why is it significant to the Christian faith (and helpful to us) that Jesus used the words of Psalm 22 on the cross?

(4) Read 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10. How did Paul personally experience unanswered prayer in his own life? According to his own words, why didn't God give Paul what he repeatedly asked for in prayer?

Getting Real:

(1) When in your life have you experienced disappointment with God? Were you honest with God about your frustrations? Have you been able to find peace in your relationship with the Lord or are you still wrestling with Him?

(2) When you experience disappointments with God, do you have good friends that you can be open and honest with? Have you ever shared with another person how you have wrestled with God? How has that helped?

(3) Of the different areas of struggles with God mentioned in Psalm 88, which one hit the closest to home with you? Why do you think that area of struggle is most challenging to you?

(4) Why is it so important that we remind ourselves of the truths of the gospel repeatedly, especially when we are going through pain? In what ways are you most tempted to distort God's character when you are hurting?
