



Rescued from fear #1
Getting the right perspective
2 Corinthians 4:1-18

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want... Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me." Psalm 23:1,4 NIV

"And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in in God's comfort." 2 Corinthians 1:7 NIV

1. We know that not everything we hear is _____.

"The gullible believe anything they're told; the prudent sift and weigh every word." Proverbs 14:15 MSG

"Every prudent man acts out of knowledge." Proverbs 13:16 NIV

"What a shame--yes, how stupid!--to decide before knowing the facts!" Proverbs 18:13 LB

"A rebel doesn't care about the facts. All he wants to do is yell." Proverbs 18:2 LB

"The wise man looks ahead. The fool attempts to fool himself and won't face facts." Proverbs 14:8 LB

"Get the facts at any price, and hold on tightly to all the good sense you can get." Proverbs 23:23 LB

2. We know this crisis will _____.

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you." 1 Peter 4:12 NIV

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NIV

3. We know that no matter what we go through, God will go _____ it with me.

"When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you." Isaiah 43:2 NLT

4. We know this this is not the end of the _____.

"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. We know that the same God who brought the Lord Jesus back from death will also bring us back to life again with Jesus and present us to him." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9,14 LB

"Then God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4 NIV

5. We know that God wants to use us to help _____.

"You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35 NLT

6. We know that Jesus can bring _____ in our heart.

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NLT

"Unless you are born again you can never see the kingdom of God." John 3:3 NLT

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 NIV

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SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

Each week we will produce the Talk It Over sermon discussion questions, as we would do normally. But as these aren't normal times, we encourage you to use the Talk It Over sermon discussion questions in a different way. Here are some suggestions:

- Immediately after the online experience has ended, grab a cuppa and then sit and discuss the questions with your husband/wife/family. If you are on your own, arrange to ring another person and chat through the questions over the phone or Skype etc.
- If you are able, meet virtually as a small group through the various free online conference resources such as Microsoft teams, Skype, Zoom etc.
- Personally, take some time through the week to quietly reflect and go through the questions on your own and apply the message to your life.

Discussion Questions:

1. When life seems out of control, people can do some crazy things. What's the funniest thing you remember hearing about, seeing, or doing in such a time?
2. What do God's promises in Psalm 23:1 and 4 mean to you?
3. How might God use you to offer comfort to others around you?
4. Read Proverbs 14:15 MSG. In what ways are you practicing discernment as you engage with media?
5. Read Isaiah 43:2. After reading this scripture, what assurances or promises do we have that God will go through this crisis with us?

6. The world's approach to solving this crisis changes by the hour. Men think they have control but ultimately, we know it is God who is in control. In what ways are you leaning on God in this changing time?

7. Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 14. Because we live with hope in the midst of pain, what are some steps you can take now to improve your outlook?

8. Every need in our world is an open door and God wants to use you to help others. How is God calling you to open a door this week by serving your community or someone in need?

9. Read Galatians 6:2. Share or think about a time when God got you through something that was overwhelming or scary. How can you use this experience to help others overcome their fears or challenges during this time of crisis?

10. Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18. How does knowing that your troubles will not last make you feel in light of what's going on today?