



Boundless #1
Where is God during Covid 19?
2 Corinthians 4:7-18

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV

"People can never predict when hard times might come. Like fish in a net or birds in a snare, people are often caught by sudden tragedy." Ecclesiastes 9:12 NLT

1. When I go through things I don't understand, I can still have _____.

"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you! When you pass through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned up; it will NOT consume you!" Isaiah 43:2 NLT

"I will never leave you and I will NEVER abandon you." Hebrews 13:5 TEV

2. When I go through things I don't understand, I can still have _____.

"The earth suffers for the sins of its people, for they have twisted the instructions of God, violated his laws, and broken his covenant. Therefore... the earth has broken down and has utterly collapsed. Everything is lost, abandoned, and confused." Isaiah 24:5 +19 NLT

"But 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

"We also have joy with our troubles, because we know that these troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope. And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts." Romans 5:3-5 CEV

3. When I go through things I don't understand, I can still have _____.

"We often suffer, but we're never crushed. Even when we don't know what to do, we never give up. In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again... Because we know God raised the Lord Jesus back to life. And just as God raised Jesus, he will also raise us back to life, and will bring us into his presence together." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 14 CEV

"So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever." 2 Corinthians 4:18 NLT

"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

"At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"" Mark 15:33-34 NIV

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross... Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.



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. Think through some of the things that are causing you confusion and concern regarding Covid19.

2. When we go through something we don't understand, it is natural for us to start looking for a reason. We think that having the explanation will remove our anguish. But suffering is not soothed by knowing "why." Suffering is relieved by knowing God loves you and is with you. Think through a time you went through difficulty or something happened that you didn't understand. How did the presence of God comfort you and change you through that time?

3. Read Hebrews 13:5 and Isaiah 43:2. When we are feeling overwhelmed, what truths in these scriptures help restore our hope?

4. Why is knowing that God is with you essential in helping you recover from suffering?

5. There is nothing perfect on this planet—our bodies, our relationships, our minds—but we can choose joy. Jesus declared to his disciples that while in this world you will have trouble, you can take heart because he has overcome the world (see John 16:33). Have you ever experienced a time when you needed to hold on to Jesus' words?

6. Read Romans 5:3-5. What does Paul say is the end result of trouble? What has God given us as assurance?

7. We can have hope knowing that while this world is broken, God has a greater plan. For an in-depth picture of our broken world and God's greater plan, read Isaiah 24. What did God show you?

8. Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 14, 18. Paul is realistic about suffering and facing situations we don't understand. But what does he say we should do?

9. How does having an eternal perspective help us in the here and now?

10. Read Hebrews 12:2-3. How does Jesus' example help you at this time?