

Dear Church: Good Grief Part 2
Grieving the Loss of an Unborn Child
A Bible study for individuals, groups or classes
Guest: Dean Meadows

Background scripture:

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Podcast Sections:

03:24 Dean's loss of his child
11:16 Approaching the loss with emotion and thought
11:45 "Apologetics has saved me from . . . a crisis of faith"
15:16 The loss doesn't change the resurrection or the existence of God
15:55 Passages that helped Dean
17:09 I'm anchoring myself with God
18:00 How this affected his wife
19:42 They are still recovering, still needing to talk
21:20 What "Good Grief" means / We are a grief illiterate culture
23:12 What to say to people in this situation
27:31 Looking forward to reuniting in heaven
28:00 Yet, there is joy in being a Christian
29:32 Mourning and grieving are necessary and ongoing
33:09 How the loss was handled by their children

Discussion questions:

1. Do you know someone who has grieved the loss of an unborn child? How did they cope? What can you learn from their experience?
2. Before King David's son died, he "sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. ¹⁷ And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them." (2 Samuel 12:16-17). Compare that with David's response upon the death of his son in 2 Samuel 12:19-23 (on the next page). What does this passage say about the faith of David?
3. Dean mentioned John 3:16 and Romans 8:18-19 (both are on the next page). How might these verses help one coping with loss?
4. Dean also referenced Psalm 103 (part of it is on the next page). He specifically referenced verse 8. How does belief in these verses help in times of grief?

Scriptures related to this study

John 3:16

16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 8:18-19

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

John 13:34-35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

2 Samuel 12:19-23

¹⁹ But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” They said, “He is dead.” ²⁰ Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. ²¹ Then his servants said to him, “What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food.” ²² He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’” ²³ But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.”

Psalms 103

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

² Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

⁴ who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵ who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All scriptures are from The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.