



WEEKLY STUDY

Week 4

Grief can show up in different ways and at different times for each of us. We grieve the loss of a loved one. We grieve the loss of our way of life. Sometimes it comes in waves and surprises us when we least expect it. Near the end of Jesus' earthly life, his disciples experienced the grief of losing their friend and teacher Jesus. They also had to grieve their misperception of the way he would reign on earth. They had gone all-in with Jesus and suddenly found themselves disoriented by grief.

What Jesus says to them doesn't shame them or make light of their grief. Instead he promises that their grief will be turned into joy. If what Jesus says is true, our grief will not last forever. May you find strength and hope in this truth this week.

Peace of Christ,
Dr. Mark Youngman
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt. You might also pray this prayer.

Jesus, I believe that what you say is true. Meet me in my moments of grief and point me to the joy you have promised. When the waiting seems long, strengthen my faith. I look forward to the time when you will come and make everything good again. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 16.1-10

All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. ² They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. ³ They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴ I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will

remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you,⁵ but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'⁶ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things.⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me;¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

- Jesus is really clear that his physical absence is a necessary next step for the disciples to begin living in the Spirit. He said that it was good for us that he was going away. The Kingdom-launching movement that he came announcing was always going to require the gift of the Holy Spirit in order to reach the whole world. Does the Spirit of God still prove the world to be wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment?
- *God, thank you for the proving gift of the Holy Spirit. Convict my heart today and set me free to live into the righteousness of Christ.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 16.12-15

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

- The Spirit is of God and is how we can hear from God the Father. When we hear from the Holy Spirit, we hear from God. That's why we have to tune our hearts to hear from the Spirit. We can know that it is the Spirit of God talking to us when Jesus is glorified by what He says. Are there things in your life that are not bringing glory to Jesus? How can you begin to decipher the voices of this world and the voice of the Holy Spirit?
- *Jesus, I want to stay connected to you. I receive your Spirit today and listen for every word spoken that brings you glory.*

WEDNESDAY: JOHN 16.16-20

Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

¹⁷ *At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father?'"¹⁸ They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."*

¹⁹ *Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?"²⁰ Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.*

- The "In a little while..." statements of Jesus may sound like a riddle at first, but they are among the most direct words he gave his disciples. They would still have to walk through the death of Jesus. They handled it in different ways. But he wanted them to have this promise underlying their grief. *In a little while you will see me.* In this week's message, I shared my own view that Jesus might

have intentionally set up the disciples to focus on this statement/promise. Sometimes the goodness of God is so surprising that we marvel at it. It can even seem too good to be true—too much to comprehend.

- *Jesus, hold me inbetween the “little whiles” of life. You know my grief. Point me to joy!*

THURSDAY: JOHN 16.21-24

A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. ²² So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

- What a great image Jesus uses to explain the *In a little while*-life! For many, the pain of childbirth (as real and profound as it is) fades away with the joy of holding a child. You may feel like you are in that place of labor. You may feel like the pain is unbearable. But Jesus promises us that joy is on its way.
- *Thank you Jesus for sticking with us in our season of pain and anguish. Joy comes in the morning. Joy comes in the morning. Make my joy complete.*

FRIDAY: ISAIAH 25.6-9

*On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.*

⁷ *On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;*

⁸ *he will swallow up death forever.*

*The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears
from all faces;*

*he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.*

The Lord has spoken.

⁹ *In that day they will say,*

*“Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.*

*This is the Lord, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”*

- The prophet Isaiah recorded this image of the joy we are waiting for. All the best things are being prepared for us. Our work will be delighting in God and bringing glory to Jesus Christ. Can you picture it? A day when we will say to one another, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us!”
- *God, we look to the day described in Isaiah 25, and we can get little glimpses of it today. Show me the feast yet to come.*

SATURDAY: REVELATION 21.1-4

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.⁴ ‘He 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.”

- John recorded this vision of life after the next “little while”. God’s dwelling place is now among the people. No more tears! The old order of things is gone. What is the order of things that needs to be swept away by the return of Jesus? Do you see how the words of restoration and promise “they will be his people and God will be their God” echo the words spoken over the nation of Israel thousands of years ago? This plan was set in motion far before us, but it is our future as we abide with Jesus.
- *Lord Jesus, my heart longs for your return. Hold me even now and build my faith. I cry tears over this world, come soon and wipe them from my eyes.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

This week, Providence Worship Pastor [Jenny Youngman](#) shared her song *Come the Morning*. You’ll be able to hear this song on the full service recording online, and soon you can catch it on the upcoming Providence Worship Album.

*You’re well acquainted with my grief.
So I’ll go running to the garden where you’re grieving.
That’s where I’ll lay my burdens down.
And you’ll hold them to your heart,
stretch them out in your hands,
and turn them into joy come the morning.*

*With all your strength you cried out “thy will be done”
And I feel better just knowing that my battle is already won.*

1. These words are addressed to Jesus. What does it mean that Jesus is well acquainted with your grief?
2. What are the current burdens that you would lay down before Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane?
3. Jesus wrestled in the garden on the night before his crucifixion. If the Son of God battled with grief even though the outcome was secure, how much more would we expect to wrestle when going into battle in this world? Do you feel better just knowing that Jesus is acquainted with your grief and that the battle is already won? What does that mean for how you will live your life today?