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Groups Sermon Study Questions

## **LOSS to LIFE**

November 26, 2017

## **Message Summary**

No matter what type of loss or how deeply we are wounded, we can move from loss to life by acknowledging the loss and embracing our grief. We can ask for and receive God's comfort and enabling power to persevere, and we can trust God's plan (for our good). God promises to bring us to a place of safety even if on the wings of broken pieces.

## **Consider This:**

- 1. Why is it difficult to talk about loss in our lives?
- 2. A) We usually think our weakness will hinder our effectiveness for God. Yet Jesus told Paul,
  - B) "My power works best in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9b). Can you share a time and a way when you saw that God's power was more evident in weakness?
  - C) Jesus said, "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world" (John 16:33b NLT). It's a hard truth, but we're all destined for trouble. And yet no sorrow is so overwhelming, or pain too intense, or loss so devastating, that God cannot see us through.

3. Recognizing the reality of loss is both healthy and natural. How did Jesus respond to the death of his close friend in John 11:33-35? How should we respond to loss (Romans 12:15)?	9. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58 and 2 Corinthians 4:13–18. In Christ, we can be confident that our lives will not be pointless. Why?	
<ul> <li>4. The five stages of grief are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Which of these stages have been (or might be) the most challenging for you to work through? Why?</li> <li>5. Who is always there to comfort us in times of loss (Psalm 23: 4, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Hebrews 13:5)? How do we access that comfort (Psalm 18:5-6)?</li> </ul>	Moving Forward  The psalmist practiced the presence of God and it supernaturally renewed his spirit in the midst of severe trials and loss. This week, read and reflect upon Psalm 23 each day. Choose the verses that are most meaningful to you and commit them to memory.  Day 1 Verse:	
"We'll never suffer a loss without also experiencing a gift. And whatever God may give, His purpose is to meet all of our needs and to bless us with more and more of Himself." - Alan Perkins	Day 2 Verse:	
6. Read John 16:5-7. Why were the disciples sorrowful, what were they about to lose? Would they see Jesus again in this life? What was the promised gift?	Day 3 Verse:	
	Day 4 Verse:	
7. According to John 16:13, Acts 1:8 and Ephesians 1:13–14, what are some of the advantages that believers have, after the departure of Jesus, from the promised gift (the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit)?	Day 5 Verse:	
8. According to 2 Corinthians 4:14-18, why can believers overcome every sort of discouragement?	Day 6 Verse:	
	Day 7 Verse:	