



## Week 2: Blessing in mourning.

1. What is your primary take away from the "Blessing in Mourning" sermon this week?
2. We all experience loss in our lives; We lose our loved ones, our youthfulness, our dreams, our career. Maybe you've lost a marriage, or a relationship. We lose our routines, we have new seasons, new or lost jobs, our children grow, our home towns change. We lose friends, we are diagnosed with an illness or have an injury. We have all lost something or someone over the last year especially during this pandemic. Loss is a part of life. What is a major loss you have experienced, a moment when you felt everything in life as you knew it changed?
3. Pastor Dan quoted Pete Scazzero (Pastor/Theologian) who asserts, "our culture interprets loss as an alien invasion of our normal lives." What do you think this is? How have you seen this in your own life - in culture?
4. Pastor Dan shared that when we experience loss, we all seek comfort. The question is where? False comfort looks like Religion / denial / minimizing / blaming others / over-spiritualizing / blaming oneself / rationalizing / intellectualizing / distracting / becoming hostile / medicating (unhealthy addictions - attachments to numb our pain). Which of these is your "go-to"? How does this sermon encourage you to seek comfort in Jesus?
5. Read Heb. 6:19. In the diagram showing the process of change, Pastor Dan said that HOPE is the gravitational pull toward the comfort of God's new beginning. We build this Hope in the presence of God. How do you spend time with Jesus when you are caught "in between" the overwhelming loss and a new beginning.
6. Read Romans 5:3-5, Matt. 26:38-46, 2 Cor. 12:7-10, Romans 5:3-5, and 2 Cor. 4:7-11. Discuss how you see Blessing in Mourning, and the examples of mourning and hope given by Jesus and Paul.
7. Mourning builds a bridge toward HOPE. What is one way you can start to pursue comfort in Jesus in the midst of your losses this week?