

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: The New Abnormal
Message: What's Normal, Anyway?
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: October 3/4, 2020

After reviewing the message notes and Bible verses, ask God to help you see what recent circumstances show about the status of your faith and trust in Him. Be really honest as you reflect. Has your faith been mostly in having or gaining “good” and “normal” circumstances?

If so, what are they?

How might God be using difficult and “abnormal” circumstances to help you see where He wants you to grow in your faith and trust in Him? Be as specific as you can.

As you ponder on these things, here are a few passages to guide you:

¹¹ “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” says the LORD.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 (NLT)

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

²² The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. ²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. ²⁴ I say to myself, “The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!” ²⁵ The LORD is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. ²⁶ So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the LORD.

Lamentations 3:22-26 (NLT)

MESSAGE NOTES



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normal (def): standard or regular pattern, usual, routine, predictable

When we base our expectation of "normal" on circumstances, we set ourselves up for frustration and disappointment.

Abnormal circumstances are actually good for us. They are an opportunity for us to show and grow our faith.

² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

James 1:2-4 (NLT)

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 (NLT)

²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹ For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son.

Romans 8:28-29 (NLT)

A better definition of "normal" – humbly trusting God today.

²³ Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. ²⁴ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁵ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?"

Luke 9:23-25 (NLT)

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:
NLT – New Living Translation