

Finding God in the Dark

“God whispers to us in our pleasures . . . but shouts in our pains.”

—C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*, 1940

“Why is He so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?”

—C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*, 1961

Suffering can _____.

Psalm 23:4; 34:18; Isaiah 43:2; Daniel 3:19-27; Acts 18:9-10;
2 Corinthians 1:3-5; Philippians 3:7-11; 1 Peter 4:14

Suffering can _____.

Job 13:24; 29:2-5; 30:20; Psalm 13:1; 44:24; 88:13-14; Mark 15:34

How to find God in the dark:

① _____
Matthew 5:4

② _____
James 4:8

③ _____
2 Corinthians 7:5-6; Hebrews 4:12

④ _____
Job 42:4; Psalm 40:1

Transformed by the Truth

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Would you describe this season of your life as “bright” or “dark”? Why?
2. Read Psalm 13:1 and Psalm 34:18. Which of these verses better describes your relationship with God during times of suffering? In what dark times have you felt close to God? Far from God?
3. Read Matthew 5:4. Do you consider yourself a “good mourner”? What link have you observed between your emotional response to pain and God’s nearness to you during those times?
4. Read James 4:8. When you are disappointed with God, which direction do you go—toward Him or away from Him? Why?
5. Who do you know that is having a hard time finding God in the dark? How might you be a conduit of His compassion to that person?