


Deep calls to Deep

**session 6
the depths
darkness**

Spiritual formation in the hard places of life

Unjust Suffering – Psalm 69



Why should this happen to me?

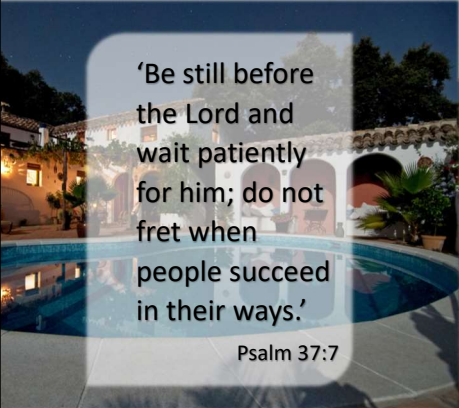
Why does God allow this?

It's not fair!

Why do bad things happen to good people?

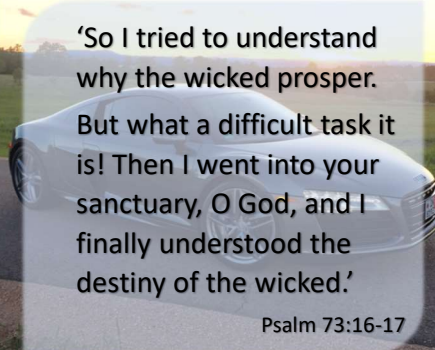
Session 5 Review

Why do good things happen to bad people?



'Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways.'

Psalm 37:7




'So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked.'

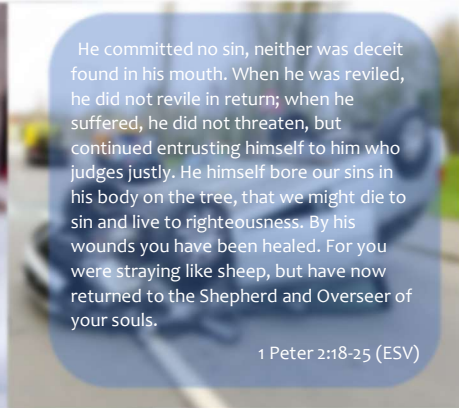
Psalm 73:16-17

Session 5 Review

Why do bad things happen to good people?



Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a **gracious thing**, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you **endure**? But if when you do good and suffer for it you **endure**, this is a **gracious thing** in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.



He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 Peter 2:18-25 (ESV)

Session 5 Review

Reflection – Don't just do something, sit there!

We started off 'Deep calls to Deep' with the thought of tracing the rainbow through the rain – thinking about how God was on our case and pursuing us even before we were aware of it.

Spend some time this week, reflecting on some of the harder times and experiences you have faced, the waiting you have been through, and ask:

- What was God doing in those times?
- What did I discover about God during those times?
- What did I discover about myself during those times?
- How did God show up in those times?
- Did my relationship with God grow deeper or more distant as a result of those times?

Session 5 Review

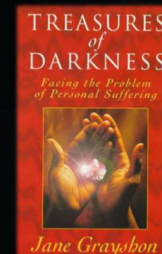
Psalm 88 – the darkest psalm

Why choose
to include
this psalm?

Deep calls to Deep

Spiritual formation in the hard places of life

The Darkness – what's happening there?

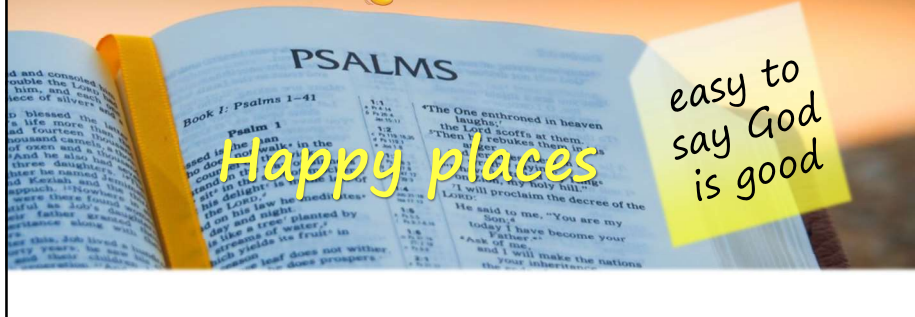


'Seeds are hidden in darkness underground: they need to be so in order to germinate. I am coming to believe that the darkness which is essential to the natural world may be vital to our spiritual growth ...

We can be so blinded by what we cannot see or do not understand, we doubt that God is doing anything other than ignoring our plight. Yet God did much of his creative work in darkness. When He gave Moses the ten commandments, He did so not in a clear atmosphere but when the mountain was shrouded in fog. Moses had to have the courage to 'approach the thick darkness where God was' (Ex 20:21). When God guided the children of Israel across the desert, He led them with a cloud. Even the resurrection happened at night, Even if we can see nothing of Him, God does His creative and important work in our darkness too.' (*Treasure of Darkness*, p78)

Happy Places & Safe Spaces

HAPPY PLACE – the place, situation, or environment where one feels most happy and secure.

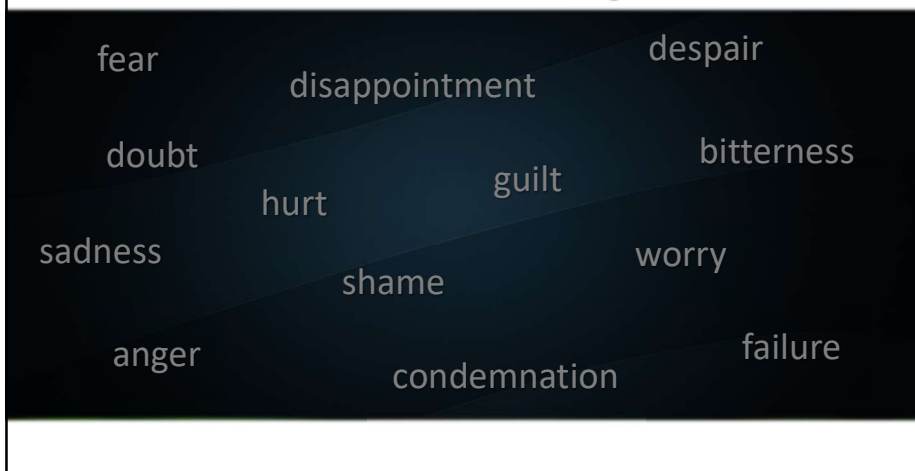


Happy Places & Safe Spaces

SAFE SPACE – a supportive, non-threatening environment where you feel comfortable to express yourself and share experiences without fear of judgement, discrimination or reprisal.



The Darkness – what's hiding there?



The Darkness – I worship you

You've been born in my life
 You're welcome
 And I've decorated the place
 for You to come in
 and with tinsel and lights and music
 I celebrate your birth in me

But You came
 not to the place which is light
 but into the dark places
 Into a hidden stable
 at the back

And You ask
 to be born today
 in my dark places
 in the recesses of my being
 among the dung of my life
 where no preparation is made

You want it lit
 not by my festive candles
 but by the single flame
 of Your life beginning
 even in that stench

And I'm told of Your glory
 by angels announcing
 that You have crept in

So I dare to look
 into the backyard of my heart
 and I worship You

'Treasures of Darkness' – Jane Grayshon, p74-75