

Near

To The Broken-Hearted (Week 1)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

When our hearts are broken and our pain is the deepest, God is near us.

Key Scriptures

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call him Immanuel"—which means "God with us." Matthew 1:22-23

"This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'" Matthew 1:18-21

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit
Psalm 34:18

What if disappointment and heartbreak are the exact appointments your soul needs to radically encounter God?

— Lysa TerKeurst

When we know God is near:

We can trust His timing.
We can trust His way.

Start talking.

- Describe a time you have been heartbroken.
- What key relationships saw you through that time?

Start thinking.

- Read Matthew 1:22-23. Why is "God with us" a paradigm shifting idea?
- Read Matthew 1:18-21. What might have been going through Joseph's head and heart when he learned Mary was pregnant?
- What were the possible consequences to the future he has been working toward?
- Joseph "considered this" and took it to the LORD in prayer. What would his prayers have been like?
- Read Psalm 34:18. How different would Joseph read that verse after hearing from the angel?

Start sharing.

- What dreams of your future did you have to let go of to embrace the new future life threw at you?
- How have disappointments and heartbreak brought you closer to God?
- How have you felt God near you in those moments/seasons?

Start doing.

- There is something miraculous and mysterious that happens as we draw close to God, He draws close to us. Commit to reading through the Gospel of Luke between now and Christmas Eve.

Closing prayer.

Dear Lord, help me during my seasons of disappointment and heartbreak. Hear my cries and draw close to me. Help me to experience you in real and tangible ways that I might move forward trusting in your timing and in your ways.
Amen.