

**Group Study on Miscarriage and Stillbirth**

*What you will need:*

* A print out of this document
* A Bible

*Read aloud the following excerpt and use your Bible to look up the passages cited in the text*

The loss of a child is every parent’s worst nightmare. No matter how small, the child they lost was *their* child. Love doesn’t discriminate as to size.

We may search for explanations, but we can’t always understand why tragedy strikes. Why, Lord, why?

What we do know is that Jesus understands what it is to suffer. And he suffers with those who suffer. He, too, was a man of many sorrows. He shares their grief. He shares *our* grief.

In our despair, Jesus invites us to cling to him. Totally, desperately, with abandon. He says: *“Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28). He is our refuge and hiding place; only in Him will we find peace for our souls.

Jesus calls us to hear His Word, to speak to Him and to pour out that which causes us such great pain. And he promises to hear our prayers.

It may not always seem like God is listening. Even Jesus felt the Father had abandoned Him when, on the cross, he cried out: *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* (Matthew 27:46) But Jesus had not been forgotten or forsaken by the Father. Neither are we.

We are not alone in our journey with suffering. Grief is mercifully communal. Are there people you can turn to? With whom do you feel safe? God gives us these people to be His hands and feet here on earth, and to hold each other in these dark spaces.

Now may be your time of grief. But your grief will not last forever. All things will be made well in time. Cling to Jesus. Seek His face. He is with you.

*Discussion Questions*

* Pregnancy and childbirth are often filled with hope for the future. Is there still room for hope when a baby dies?
* What does it mean that God is our refuge and hiding place (Psalm 32:7 and 46:1)? How is this true even when we still have to live in this world of suffering?
* Jesus promises always to hear our prayers. Is it always easy to go to Him with your griefs or pains? Why or why not?
* When life seems dark and it seems like God is not listening (or has even deserted us) there are some Bible passages that comfort. See, for example, Lamentations 2:22-23; Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 54:10. Do you have any others that bring you comfort? What is it about these verses that brings you comfort?
* On the cross, Jesus not only took on the sin of the world, but all our griefs and pains as well. He has gone to prepare a place for us in heaven. See Revelation 21:3-5. Does this fill you with hope and peace? What do you understand heaven to be like? It is to be a place where we are with God and free from sadness.

*Close with prayer*

*Further resources*

* Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Newborn Death Support “Sands”: <http://www.sands.org.au>