

11 CALIFORNIANS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ONE: COMFORT

Either with a group or on your own, use the following questions to explore Bible passages and apply insights from the video session.

What stood out to you from the video?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

1. If you could receive advice from someone who has enjoyed extraordinary success or someone has fought through extraordinary struggle, to whom would you choose to listen? Why?

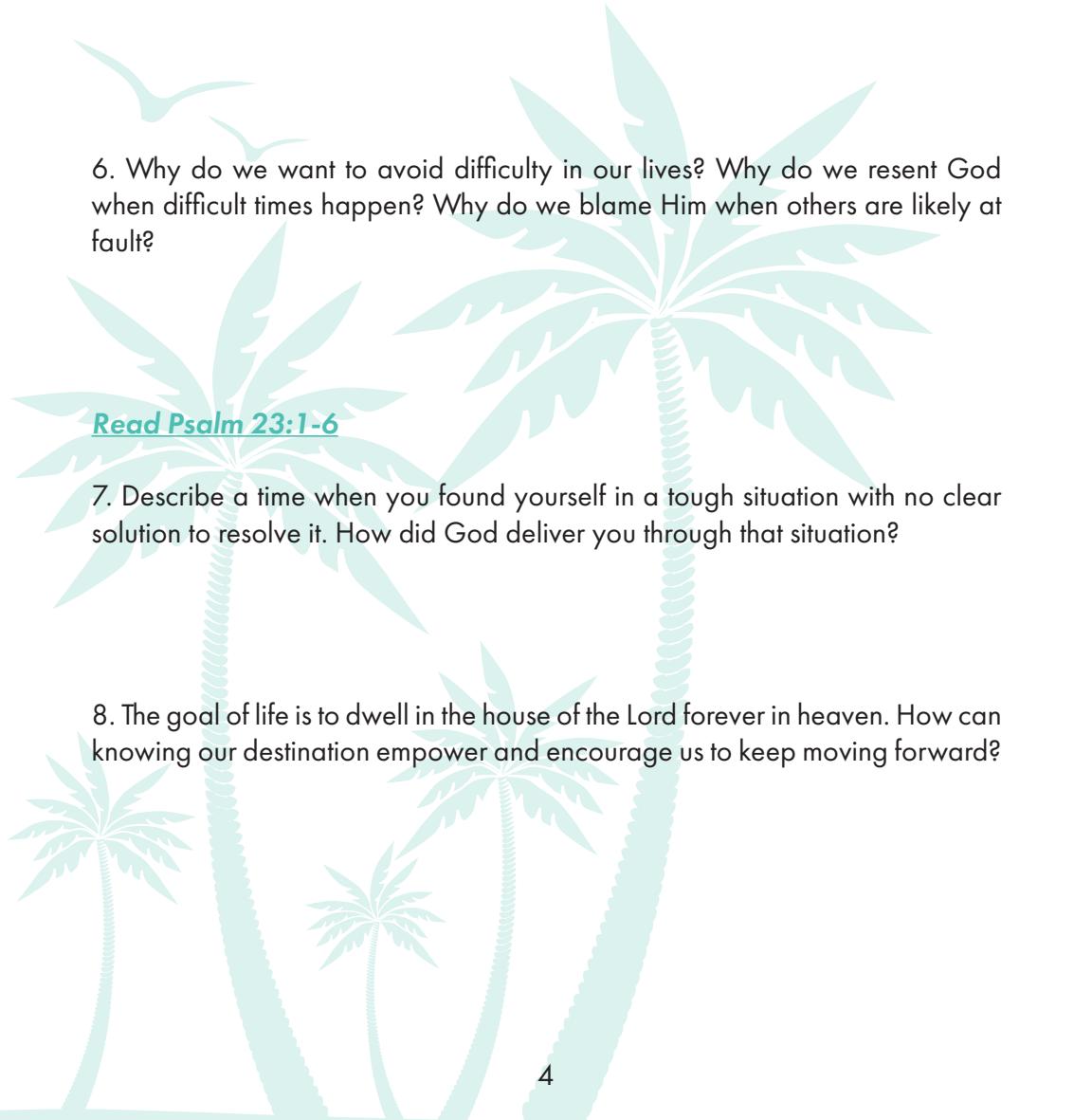
2. What are the qualities of a friend who is excellent at comforting or counseling? When you go to a friend for comfort, what do you hope they'd say? On the other hand, what are the qualities of a friend who is terrible at comforting or counseling?

3. Why do we believe that comforting someone means we are supposed to fix their problems rather than walking alongside them? Why is it more valuable for God to walk alongside us during our difficulty rather than instantly solving it for us?

4. How can the comfort we have received from God help others step forward in the midst of their trials? Share some examples of how you have seen this in your life or in the lives of others.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 & Acts 19:23-41

5. How can traumatic experiences like the one we see in these verses increase our trust in the Lord? How might traumatic experiences cause some people to lose trust in the Lord?



6. Why do we want to avoid difficulty in our lives? Why do we resent God when difficult times happen? Why do we blame Him when others are likely at fault?

Read Psalm 23:1-6

7. Describe a time when you found yourself in a tough situation with no clear solution to resolve it. How did God deliver you through that situation?

8. The goal of life is to dwell in the house of the Lord forever in heaven. How can knowing our destination empower and encourage us to keep moving forward?

DEEPER STUDY QUESTIONS

[Read John 14:15-21, John 14:25-27 & John 16:5-15](#)

9. If the world does not receive comfort or counsel from the Holy Spirit, then where do they look for it? Why are their methods inferior to finding comfort from the Holy Spirit?

10. List out the roles of the Counselor in these verses. How do these actions of the Holy Spirit help us improve our capacity to comfort others?

A PRAYER OF COMFORT

Each week, we will provide a simple prayer that you can use either in a group or on your own. During times of difficulty or anxiety, we can forget that God stands beside us and walks with us through our struggle. This prayer is designed to help you remember this and to reconnect with God:

1. Begin by closing your eyes and focusing on your breath. As you breathe, repeat this sentence either out loud or silently in your head: "Lord, you are with me."
2. Silently focus on three moments from your life when you received comfort from the Lord or from a friend. Recall the memory as vividly as possible, concentrating on each detail you remember. When you come to the end of each memory, thank God for that gift and move on to the next memory.
3. When you have finished remembering, imagine the Lord sitting down next to you. As you sit together, be silent and listen as the Lord opens His mouth to encourage you. Thank Him for the good things He speaks to you.
4. Imagine that you and the Lord stand up together and take one step forward toward the paradise to which He has called us. Thank the Lord for His promises and for walking with us. Finally, close the prayer in whatever way you see fit.

*Even though I walk
through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

PSALM 23:4