

WHEN LIFE HAPPENS

SERMON SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 September 7, 2025

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”



OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, we come before You today with grateful hearts, thankful for the gift of scripture and the fellowship we share in this group. We ask that You would clear away the distractions that weigh us down and help us to fix our eyes fully on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Lord, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race set before us. Teach us what it means to lay aside every burden, to endure hardship with faith, and to draw encouragement from the cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. May Your Spirit guide our conversation, deepen our understanding, and inspire us to live with greater faith, endurance, and joy. Bless our time together and use it to draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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INTRODUCTION

The question that we're exploring in this sermon series is ‘what do we do when our circumstances seem to point to a God that's not there?’ When times get turbulent, where do you turn? In an ever-changing world it's essential to find somewhere consistent to go; and not just *somewhere*, but toward *someone*.

No matter if our current season of life is easy or difficult, we strive to fix our eyes on Jesus instead of our circumstances. According to the author of the Book of Hebrews, we can approach the throne of grace in those difficult seasons, because God has promised us mercy and grace in our time of need.

QUESTIONS

1. Growing up, were you taught to believe in an "if we do, God will" type of faith? That is, were you led to believe your circumstances were connected to God's promises? That if you were faithful, your circumstances would be better? If so, how was it taught to you?
2. Have you ever doubted God because of an unanswered prayer? Did your faith survive? If so, how?
3. Have you ever watched a Christian experience sustaining grace in the midst of suffering? How did it impact you?
4. Read Hebrews 12:2-3 (on page 1). Are you currently in a season in which you are "weary" and potentially "losing heart"? What would it look like to receive God's grace? How can this group be there for you?
5. In Psalm 23, the psalmist reminds us that God walks with us through the difficult times in life. Where have you felt the most pressure during this season? Financially? Relationally? Spiritually? Something else? How can this group help?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week memorize Hebrews 4:16 (on page 1).