



## Bible Study

### Psalm 23 - How we should respond as Christians to COVID-19?

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3. Verse 3 gives us an insight into why God might lead us down these different paths.

**Read: James 1:2-4**

**2** Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

**1 Peter 1:6-7**

**6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7** These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

What do you think is God's ultimate purpose for us in all the experiences of our lives? How can this apply to coronavirus?

4. Read verse 4. It is in the middle of the Psalm for a reason. It is a contrast to the verses on either side. Why?

5. What encouragement does the word "through" in verse 4 give us?

6. Read **Romans 5:3-4**

**3** Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope.

What does this passage and Psalm 23 teach us about suffering in this life as a Christian?

7. The world is terrified of Coronavirus. It makes us face the reality of death, it forces us to confront our lack of control. People who don't know Jesus have little to hope in (other than maybe a cure, a vaccine or the passing of time). What should they fear more than coronavirus?

- a. Read: **Luke 12:4-5**

**4** "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. **5** But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.

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8. The people around us need Jesus more than a vaccine. What are some creative ways we could share the gospel with people while we are all confined to our houses?

9. Read:

**a. Ephesians 1:11**

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

**b. Matthew 10:28-31**

**28** Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. **30** And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

**c. Job 42:2**

"I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

**d. Psalm 23:5-6**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Whilst we can't understand God's purposes for the coronavirus this side of heaven, what encouragement can we take from these verses?

10. How can we help train our minds to faith, confidence and trust in Jesus in the midst of the fear, panic and worry surrounding us? Read:

**a. Philippians 4:8**

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

**b. Revelation 22:1-4**

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. **3** No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. **4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

11. What encouragement have you found here and how might it change your thinking in the week ahead?

*Spend some time in Prayer*