



sermon follow-up guide
Week 2: Unexpected Circumstances



GET GOING

- Share something that is overwhelming to you, (that is somewhat silly), even if it may not be as big of a deal to others.

GET PERSONAL

1. This past weekend we looked at the overwhelming topic of global calamity. Share something that's happening in the world right now that is particularly troubling to you.
2. When you watch the news or read the paper what's your typical gut reaction?

- **Read Genesis 1:31**

3. Mark mentioned the *Highlights* game, "What's Wrong with this Picture?" In Genesis 1, God looked over all that He had made and said it was *good*. As you look at the world we live in, what's wrong with this picture?

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Read Matthew 24:3-14**

4. Our world is not as it was intended to be. Yet, Jesus told us everything we should expect. Of all the signs that Jesus predicted, which one bothers you the most?
5. Take a few minutes and discuss how you see these signs playing out in our world?

(Spiritual Deception, Political Discord, Natural Disasters, Religious Discrimination, Moral Decay)

The trials of this life are the labor pains of eternity.

6. It's easy to get overwhelmed when looking at the calamity and chaos that's prevalent in our world. How should our faith impact the way we respond to these circumstances?

- **Read Romans 8:18-22**

7. How does the analogy of a woman in labor relate to the global calamity in our world?

8. Mark shared that in light of all the calamity and chaos that points to the end-times, (Jesus' return), there would be a global declaration of the Gospel. How does this good news complete the picture of a woman giving birth?

9. How does knowing the overwhelming circumstances of this life are the "labor pains of eternity" give you hope to press through the calamity around us?

PRAY

In your group, spend a few minutes sharing some of the circumstances of life that have been overwhelming to you lately. Ask God to give you strength to press through those circumstances. Thank God that He alone is our hope for the calamity in our world.

Mark shared that over 105,000 people are killed every year for their faith in Jesus. As you close today, take a few minutes to pray for those being persecuted.

Check out these passages during the week to help you keep perspective.

1 Peter 1:1-9 :: 2 Peter 3 :: 1 Thessalonians 4 :: Matthew 25:14-27 :: Revelation 21:1-5

*For further application, use the App Notes which are posted each day on our Facebook Page.
If you've missed this week's message, you can watch online at parkerhill.org*