



# *Passing on Faith*

When life Makes no Sense

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## Series – Passing on Faith

- Designed by God
- Design of God is faith passed on
  - - light to world – Phil. 2:15
  - known by love – John 15
  - sharing Gospel matters – Rom. 10:14-17
  - ambassadors – 2 Cor. 5:18-21

Great Commission Mandate – Matt. 28:18ff



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Live in a Broken World

- persecution and wickedness
- sickness and death
- tragedy and pain

World is watching and asking where is your God?

Family and Friends taking note

- what is our response to brokenness?

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## 1. Be Real

- 1<sup>st</sup> Question always....WHY?

- Psalm 22:1-2 “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer and by night, but I find no rest.”

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## a) Real about our Pain & Confusion

- important not to issue pat answers, pretend or deny our feelings.
- Jesus real about emotions
  - Heb. 4:15 – Jesus without sin or fault
  - John 11:33-36 – Jesus in death of a friend
  - Matthew 9:36 – Jesus compassion on others
  - John 2:14-16 – Jesus Anger on display



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## b) Real about Darkness & Disappointment

- Job 7:1-6 “Has not man a hard service on earth, and are not his days like the days of a hired hand?<sup>2</sup> Like a slave who longs for the shadow, and like a hired hand who looks for his wages, <sup>3</sup> so I am allotted months of emptiness, and nights of misery are apportioned to me.<sup>4</sup> When I lie down I say, ‘When shall I arise?’ But the night is long, and I am full of tossing till the dawn.<sup>5</sup> My flesh is clothed with worms and dirt; my skin hardens,

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then breaks out afresh.

<sup>6</sup> My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle and come to their end without hope.<sup>7</sup> "Remember that my life is a breath; my eye will never again see good."

<sup>11</sup> "Therefore I will not restrain my mouth;  
I will speak in the anguish of my spirit;  
I will complain in the bitterness of my soul."

- express your feelings to God, don't bottle them up and pretend they are not there



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## 2. Re-align your Trust

- when the what of God makes no sense, trust the who of God!

### a) The Character of God

- Ex. 34:6 “The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,” ”



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- PSALM 145:8-9 “The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. <sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.”

- recall his attributes, his love, faithfulness, grace, goodness, how he reveals himself

b) The Promise of God

- what is it God has promised us?

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- clear about trials, 2 Tim. 3:12 “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,”
- 1 Peter 4:19 “Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.”
- Jer. 29:13 “Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you,”



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- Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.  
<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
- Phil 4:7 “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

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## c) the History of God

- record of his works in Scripture
- your salvation, his work in you
- answered prayer and provision in your life
- all of this is used in realigning our perspective in times of darkness and tragedy



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## 3. Engage in the Process of Restoration

- allowing God to work in us a decision
- determining to walk important
- 2 Cor. 5:7 “So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight.”

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a) Proclaim – yet this I call to mind

- psalm 22:3-5 “Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.<sup>4</sup> In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup> To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame”

- 56:1-4, 8-11

- 118:5-9



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## b) Community & Comfort

- Rom. 12:15 “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”
- 2 Cor. 1:3-7 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God..

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<sup>5</sup> For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. <sup>6</sup> If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. <sup>7</sup> Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort”



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## c) Perspective and hope

- wait on the Lord – Psalm 40:1-3
- understand what trials produce – Rom. 5:3-4

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

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So What

We are a witness in all seasons of Life

1. Be Real – honest about emotion & pain
2. Re-Align - place your focus on...
  - character, promises and work of God
3. Engage in the process of restoration
  - calling to mind, living in community and recognizing God at work in your pain