



God Never Said This is the Way it Should Be.

Finding happiness and hope in a broken world.

11/26/23

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later. Against its will, all creation was subjected to futility. Romans 8:20

"God created people to be upright, but they have each turned to follow their own downward path." Ecclesiastes 7:29

We know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan... for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. Romans 8:22-23

He has planted eternity in the human heart. Ecclesiastes 3:11

"There are many rooms in my Father's house. I wouldn't tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you." -Jesus, John 14:2

Creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. Romans 8:21

Being open and real about the brokenness of this place frees me up for greater joy, happiness and hope.

I don't get disappointed with God.

I release people from unrealistic expectations.

I'm not surprised by the world's situations.

For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. 1 John 2:15-17

I look at my problems as the way God is changing me.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Revelation 21:4

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." -Jesus, John 16:33

For your LifeGroup and personal growth...

Talk together about how your holiday went. Anything fun or unexpected happen? What was the BEST part. What was the WORST?

Share your thoughts about our world and our society. Do you agree that it's "broken"? If so, how did it happen?

Read and talk about Romans 8:18-25. What do you think he is talking about? What does it tell us about this life and the life to come?

Read 1 John 2:15-17. Is the idea that the world is "fading away" a tough concept for you to swallow? What else does it say to us?

How can the idea of this broken world actually give us strength and hope and joy?

If you'd like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, email emma@marinerscc.org