

COMFORT IN TIMES OF COMMUNITY CRISIS

Psalms 46

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Recall a crisis or disaster that impacted your community, your country, or even the world. What was the event? Why was its impact so widespread? How did you feel in the wake of the event? How did your community respond?
- What does it mean to you if a person is “very present”?

There are times and events like terrorist attacks, mass shootings, pandemics, or natural disasters that impact whole communities, whole countries, and sometimes even the whole world. These shared experiences cause mass feelings of disorientation and of being overwhelmed. When so many of our lives and routines are abruptly and unexpectedly disrupted, we scramble for answers, information, and leadership. But our souls long for comfort and an unchanging, stable foundation. Study Psalm 46 and some of the most comforting psalms in the Bible to be reminded that our God is our refuge and our ever-present help in times of crisis, tragedy, and disaster.

Listen: [*Comfort in Times of Community Crisis*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- What reminds you of God’s presence in your life? Where can you look for reminders that he is a firm foundation in times that are troubling and disorienting?
- Can you identify a time when you felt God’s unshakeable presence when everything else seemed to be spinning out of control?
- Why do you think the psalmist specifies “the God of Jacob” in Psalm 46:7? What comes to mind when you hear this?
- In segment 3, host Scott Hoezee paraphrases Dr. Michael Williams: “Remember that God’s ultimate desire is that we have a close, intimate relationship with him. Jesus modeled that best, of course, with his Father and the Spirit, but that is the way we read the Psalms. All of the Psalms are premised on a prayer life before the God with whom we want to have that intimate relationship.” How does a personal, intimate relationship with God bring comfort to a community experiencing a crisis?

Related Passages

- **Exodus 3:7-20**
- **Psalm 27**
- **Psalm 91**

Conclusion

Times of crisis and tragedy have a way of forcing life as we know it to an abrupt halt. Use the change in how your time passes to follow God's command in Psalm 46:10 to "be still and know that I am God." Create a list of stories that remind you of God's salvation and deliverance so that you remember the very specific God who is our refuge in times of trouble. Include biblical stories, historical stories, and personal stories from your life—or that you've witnessed in the lives of others—on your list.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/comfort-in-times-of-community-crisis>

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