

GOD ALWAYS CARES AND NEVER LEAVES

James 1:16-17

Malachi 3:6

Lamentations 3:22-23

Mark 4:35-41

Jeremiah 29:11

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What major changes have you experienced in your life?
- How do you typically respond to change?

Strong emotions often accompany life changes. When changes are unpleasant or unexpected, we might feel frustrated, sad, or lonely. Even if we're excited or pleased about a good life change, we still might feel anxious or unsettled about the unknown. Strong emotions like these can lead us to wonder where God is in the midst of change or even cause us to question how much he cares. Thankfully, Scripture offers the assurance we need during times of change. Bible passages from both the Old and New Testaments make clear that God never leaves us and that he cares a great deal about how we feel and how we cope. These promises provide the comfort and reassurance we need to trust that God will never change, no matter how often or how drastically our own life's circumstances do.

Listen: [*God Always Cares and Never Leaves*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Reread Lamentations 3:22-23, James 1:16-17, and Malachi 3:6-7. What do each of these passages tell you about God's character? Why can remembering and reflecting on God's character bring comfort when life is uncertain?
- Do you agree that people tend to view God's involvement in the world in one of two extreme ways—either that God is directly involved in everything or that he is not involved in anything? Why or why not? What is your experience of God's involvement in your life? How do passages like James 1:13-17 and Lamentations 3:22-23 help you better understand God's involvement in your life?
- When life is unsteady, what helps you remember that Jesus is “in the boat” with you?
- Think about specific examples of God's faithfulness in your life. Have you ever shared your personal testimony of God's faithfulness with another person? Consider how hearing your testimony about God's faithfulness might benefit someone else. Whose testimony has helped you through times of change in your life?

Related Passages

- **Genesis 12:1-5**
- **Mark 6:45-52**
- **James 1:13-15**
- **Matthew 28:16-20**

Conclusion

When you need to remember that God cares and is always with you, which Bible verses do you find most meaningful, helpful, comforting, or assuring? Think about the story host Scott Hoezee shared about his CAT scan experience in segment 3. Do you similarly have particular songs or Bible verses that come back to you when you need assurance?

Consider completing one of the following exercises to enrich and strengthen your ability to find comfort in God's promises when you need it most.

- If there is a song that reminds you of God's faithfulness, find a loved one or friend to share this song with—you can listen to it or sing it together. If this person is a believer, ask them if they would be willing to share their own similar experience with a song or hymn.
- Pick a Bible verse about God's faithfulness and work on committing it to memory. Use some of the following ideas to help you:
 - Read your verse every day for a week
 - Set it as a reminder on your phone
 - Write it on a sticky note and put it on the mirror or coffee pot, someplace you regularly pause and can read it out loud
 - Ask a child to quiz you (and if the opportunity arises, tell them why you're doing it!)
 - Make up a tune to sing the verse to (your own or a familiar hymn tune)

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/god-always-cares-and-never-leaves>

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