

# Comfort in Times of Community Crisis

There are many events that cause fear and anxiety in a community: terrorist attacks, mass shootings, or natural disasters are just a few examples. When this happens, most preachers change their preaching plans for the following Sunday. A great many of them choose to preach on Psalm 46. At public memorial services more often than not a Jewish rabbi or a Christian minister will be asked to read Psalm 46 as part of the service. When a nation or even the world is in crisis, what makes this passage one of the Bible's most comforting of all psalms?

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- 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”?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Comfort in Times of Community Crisis](#)

**READ** [Psalm 46](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- 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** for further study

[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.

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