

# PBC Growing in Christ

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November 1, 2020

# Class Norms

A large, dark wooden cross stands in a field of tall grass. The cross is silhouetted against a sky with soft, golden light from a setting or rising sun, creating a dramatic and contemplative atmosphere. The cross is the central focus of the image, with its vertical post and two horizontal arms clearly visible.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

# Growing in Christ

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- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



# Growing in Christ

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*To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)*





## **Walking in Grief Psalms 116:1-9,15-17**

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**What's a movie that  
always makes you cry?**

# Scripture

## Walking in Grief

### Psalms 116:1-4

1 I love the LORD because he has heard my appeal for mercy. 2 Because he has turned his ear to me, I will call out to him as long as I live. 3 The ropes of death were wrapped around me, and the torments of Sheol overcame me; I encountered trouble and sorrow. 4 Then I called on the name of the LORD: "LORD, save me!"





## Walking in Grief Psalms 116:1-4

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**What is typically your first response to sad news?**

**What truths about God help you during times of sorrow?"**



# Walking in Grief

## Psalm 116:1-4

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- The psalmist experienced this love because God heard his cry for help.
- Our faith does not insulate us from difficulty.
- When grief finds us, we can feel overwhelmed. When we experience loss, we might wonder how we can live or survive. In our times of deep sorrow, loss, and trouble, the only solution is to call on God, the One who hears and responds in His love.



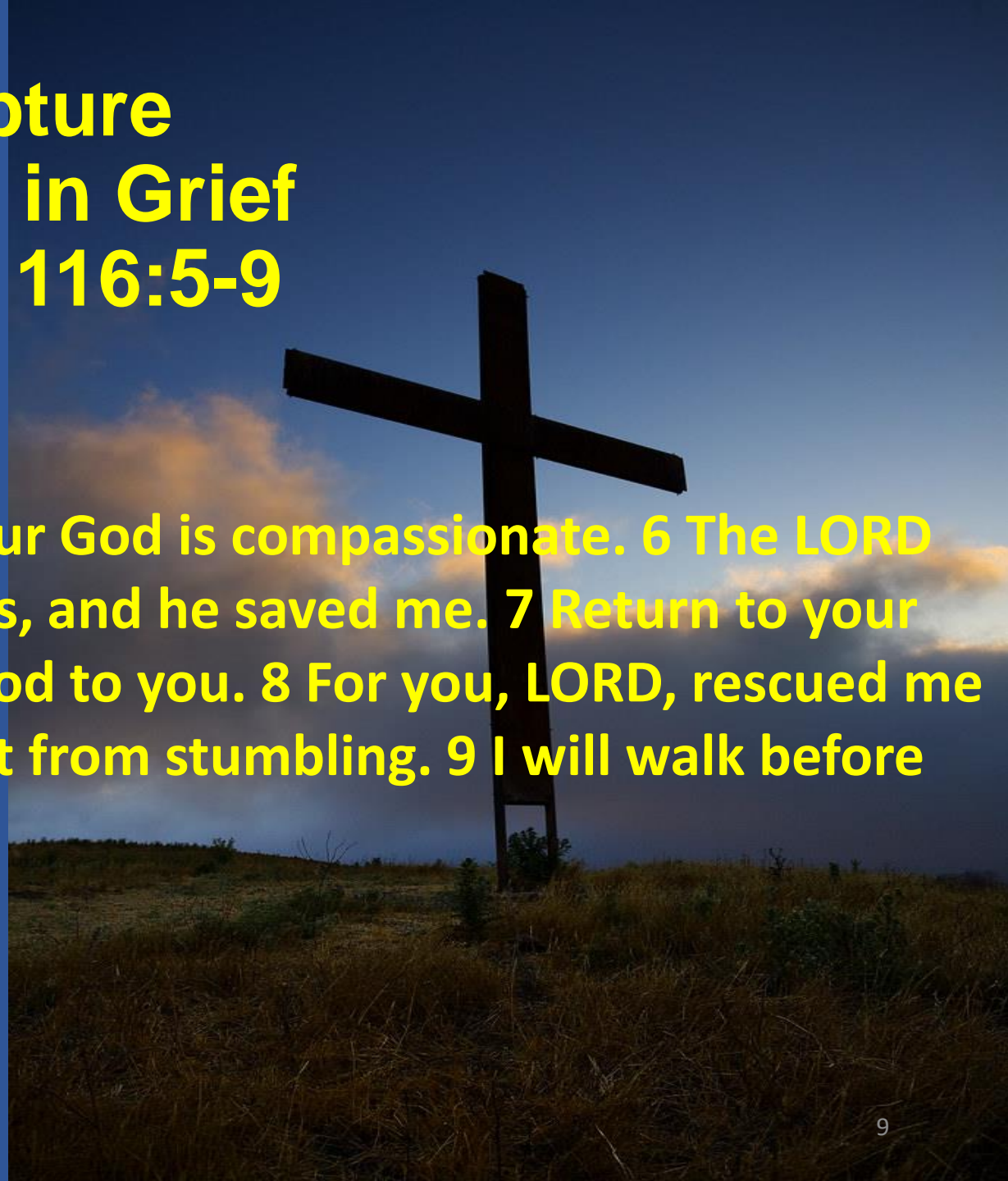
# Scripture

## Walking in Grief

### Psalms 116:5-9

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**5 The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is compassionate. 6 The LORD guards the inexperienced; I was helpless, and he saved me. 7 Return to your rest, my soul, for the LORD has been good to you. 8 For you, LORD, rescued me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. 9 I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.**





# Walking in Grief

## Psalm 116:5-9

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**What helps you rest in God even when you experience grief?**

**What are some specific ways God has shown compassion to you?**



# Walking in Grief

## Psalms 116:5-9

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- God is gracious. God was indeed gracious and considerate to His people, showing them favor even when they didn't deserve it.
- God is righteous. God is the standard of righteousness. He always does what is just and right because He is just and right.
- God is compassionate. The Hebrew word for compassion and mercy is tied to deep love, such as the love a superior has for a dependent. Parents can certainly understand this trait because it is what they feel for their children.

# Scripture

## Walking in Grief

### Psalms 116:15-17

**15** The death of his faithful ones is valuable in the LORD's sight. **16** LORD, I am indeed your servant; I am your servant, the son of your female servant. You have loosened my bonds. **17** I will offer you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.



# Walking in Grief

## Psalm 116:15-17

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**What helps you trust God during difficult circumstances?”**

**What are some benefits of thanking God during times of grief?**



# Walking in Grief

## Psalms 116:1-9,15-17

- He knows that death isn't the end; in fact, believers are never more alive than when they enter Christ's presence for eternity!
- In life or death, the psalmist knew he was loved and valued by God.
- Admittedly, it can be hard to feel thankful during circumstances that cause us grief, but it's in those very moments that we need to remember God and all He has done for us in Christ.
- A focus on God, fueled by thanks, keeps us from falling into despondency—and a life of despondency devoid of hope is what Jesus' death and sacrifice saves us from!



# GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

- **Talk to God.** If you're in a season of grief or sorrow, pray. Talk to God about what you're experiencing and feeling. Read Psalm 116 as a prayer of trust.
- **Share the truth.** Who do you know that needs to hear about God's compassion? Some think God is absent or uncaring in times of sorrow and suffering. Look for an opportunity to share the truth of God's grace and compassion.
- **Serve someone else.** Serve someone who is dealing with loss this holiday season. Make cookies for a neighbor. Invite a grieving friend to dinner. Volunteer in a local ministry or charity. Give of yourself to be there for someone else's loss.



## Final thoughts about Walking in Grief

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- If faith brought immediate cessation of life's problems, people would tend to come to faith for the wrong reason. They would come without commitment to sacrifice and service.
- Because of the death and resurrection of Christ, death isn't a tragedy for His followers; it is a triumph!





# Final thoughts about Walking in Grief

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We are going love the hell out  
you!

# Resources

A large, dark wooden cross stands in a field of dry grass under a sunset sky. The cross is the central focus, with its vertical post and horizontal arms clearly visible. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon, with some light clouds. The foreground is filled with dry, brownish grass.

**1 John 4:19**

**Sheol was the place of the dead**

**The root of the word righteous originally meant to be straight; it is the standard, the norm. Therefore, one who is righteous conforms to an ethical and moral standard.**

**BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth**

**[Bible.com](http://Bible.com)**



Next Week: November 8, 2020  
Shaking Off Fears

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Psalm 91:1-6,9-16

What is something you  
don't like admitting you're  
afraid of?



# God Bless You!

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