



<p>Key Texts Job 4:7; 6:19-20; 42:7-8 John 16:33</p>

Talking through the message during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. Get connected with some folks who will listen and dig into the word together.

Read: **John 16:33**

- What do you understand by the phrase “*embrace the suck*”?
- How do we live in the midst of the mess without the mess controlling us?
- Mike said that people will give us some “*grace space*” for a while. Some people will say things like: “*My Bible says...*” and then begin to offer their view of hope:
 - The “*at least you*” crowd
 - The “*if you have enough faith*” crowd
 - The “*you just got to*” crowd
 - The “*It’s all for the better*” crowd
- When you hear these phrases what do you think?
- What limits do you place on offering others grace?

Read: **Job 4:7; 6:19-20; 42:7-8**

- Mike talked about “*mirage theology*.” We see things that are not really there. Why did Job’s friends do that? Why do we sometimes do that?
- One of the reasons is our fears? Why is important to monitor our fear buzzers (those things that trigger us)?
- Mike said “You can’t be empathizing & be trying to fix others at the same time.” Agree. Disagree. Why? Why do we try to fix people rather than empathize with them?
- What does it mean to be “*incarnational*”?

God in **Job 42:7-8** said that Job spoke “*straight*”, in contrast to his friends.

- How do we speak straight? Especially in the mess. Does it mean that we never doubt? Never struggle? Never struggle? What does it mean?

Next Steps:

- We are reading the Psalms. This week we are in **Psalms 118-121**. As you read, ask, “What do I notice about encouragement in these passages?”
- Reflect on areas in your life where you tend to have “*mirage theology*.” What are you protecting? What are you fearful of? What is stopping you from receiving what God is offering?