TOPIC PRINTABLE

Difficult times

Passages for hard seasons — read honestly, with their context, and without promising that trouble will end on schedule.

PSALM 34:18

The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves those who have a crushed spirit.

God is near the brokenhearted — nearness, not distance, in the worst moments.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Trust when you cannot see the way: the wisdom tradition's guidance for decisions under uncertainty.

PSALM 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.

A lamp for the next step, not a floodlight on the whole road — guidance one step at a time.

PSALM 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Walking through the darkest valley without fear because the shepherd is present — the valley is not avoided.

PSALM 13:1-2

How long, LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart every day? How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

"How long?" A lament that complains to God openly — and is part of Scripture.

ISAIAH 43:2

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned, and flame will not scorch you.

Passing through waters and fire, not around them: God's promise of presence to Israel.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8–9

We are pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not to despair; pursued, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed;

Pressed but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair: Paul's honest description of his own hardships.

ROMANS 8:28

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to His purpose.

All things work together for good for those who love God — a claim about God's purpose, not that every event is good.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23

It is because of the LORD's loving kindnesses that we are not consumed, because His mercies don't fail. They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness.

Mercies new every morning, written in a ruined city.