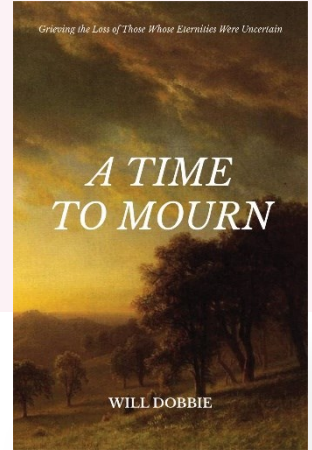




PARTICIPANT GUIDE

A TIME TO MOURN BY WILL DOBBIE



"... comfort is the one thing you cannot get by looking for it. If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end: if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth – only... wishful thinking... and, in the end, despair."

G. S. LEWIS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Q. In the *Introduction*, Dobbie acknowledges that the bereaved Christian who is mourning the death of a loved one whose eternity is uncertain is "one of the most heartbreaking of circumstances" (p2), and a "taboo" subject. What were the three points Dobbie made to provide hope in these circumstances?

2

Q. Discuss the quote, "The loss of an unbelieving loved one can... make us re-evaluate our theology" (p4). Have you experienced this in your life?

3

Q. In Chapter One, *The God Who Cares*, Dobbie gives us three examples from Scripture that demonstrate how God cares for those who are grieving the eternal loss of those they love. Which story impacted you the most? Why?

4

Q. "Your loss matters to God. But more than simply caring about your grief, He Himself grieves. It is His tragedy too" (p14). Did Chapter Two, *The God Who Grieves*, change your perspective on the way God grieves? How did Jesus grieve while here on earth?

5

Q. "If God does grieve, why does He proceed with hell?" (p17).

6

Q. Discuss John Newton's quote, "If I ever reach heaven, I expect to find three wonders there: first, to meet some I had not thought to see there, second to miss some I had expected to see there, and third, the greatest Wonder of all, to find myself there." How can we find rest while not always knowing the answers to our questions?

7

Q. How did you feel while reading Chapter Four, *The God Who Judges*? Discuss the tension between God's sovereignty and free choice regarding our eternity.

8

Q. In Chapter Five, Dobbie says, "We are more like mirrors than torches" (p44). What did he mean? What are the implications of this for our loved ones who are separated from God eternally?

9

Q. How does God's judgement of sinners reveal His Glory to us?

10

Q. In the final chapter, *The God Who Applies*, Dobbie says, "Our God isn't an impractical academic. Not a single truth in Scripture comes to us without His intention for us to mobilise it in our lives" (p62). Which one of Dobbie's 16 points for strength, comfort, and health, resonated with you most?



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