

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 17. Receiving bad news



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Mark 8:31-33

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Mark 8:34-38; Jeremiah 29:11; Mark 11:21-23; Hebrews 11:1

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

We all know what it is like to receive disappointing news. We were all hoping for an easing of lockdown when in fact it got worse again. You may have had a knock back on your Enhanced or parole, or been turned down for a job.

The disciples were hoping that the Messiah, Jesus, would overthrow the Romans who were making their lives a misery; but Jesus now tells them that in fact He is going to be killed. Peter starts to argue with Jesus; "that can't be right!" he says.

Jesus goes on to tell the disciples to take up their cross and follow Him. That doesn't mean having to die; but it means putting aside what we want to happen and being willing to be part of God's plan for our lives. The prophet Jeremiah tells us that God has a plan to prosper us and not to harm us (Jeremiah 29: 11). In other words, God has the best plan for our lives.

The writer to the Hebrews talks about having faith which is "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Jesus was very firm with Peter for being driven by human concerns rather than God's.

When we are disappointed by the turn events are taking, we need to remember that God sees the bigger picture. He knows how the pandemic will end. He knows the outcome of whatever you are concerned about today. And He has a good plan for you that is even better than what you are hoping for. Have faith, even in what you can't yet see.

### Reflections:

- What have you been disappointed about recently? Give your disappointment to God and ask Him to reassure you that He has a good plan for your life.
- What concerns do you have at the moment? Pray that God will help you to put aside human concerns and see what He is concerned about instead. Make a note of these on the back of this sheet, and look back in a week or two to see what God has done.
- Can you think of a time when you have seen God working out His plan in your life? Could you share that story with someone else to encourage them?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



What have you seen God do in response to your prayers this week?

