

July 22, 2018
Family Meeting
Part 1: Mourning with Those Who Mourn
Ted Cunningham

1. The worship team read Isaiah. 41:10.

*So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

*How do you think these words could comfort the families of those who lost their lives in the Duck Boat accident on Table Rock Lake?

*How have these words or how might these words comfort you in the hardest of times?

2. We sang “It Is Well (with my soul).” Some have these words hanging in their homes or inscribed on jewelry.

*In the face of such tragedy in Branson this last week and horrific recent tragedies all over the world, how can we sing “It Is Well”?

*FYI: Horatio Spafford, the man who wrote the words to the hymn “It Is Well,” penned them as a ship he was on passed the spot where his four daughters drowned in the Atlantic when the ship they were on with their mother sank after colliding with another. Spafford had planned to join them shortly for a holiday in Europe but instead got news of the accident and then received a telegram from his wife: “Saved alone.” This tragedy was on top of many other sorrows, including a son who died earlier at the age of 2.

*You might Google the words all the verses of Spafford’s “It Is Well” and see what helped him say “It Is Well.”

3. Have you taken pictures of sunsets of Table Rock Lake or any other place?

4. Have you been a “tour guide” in Branson for visitors? What do you always want to show people?

5. What have you said or done for someone going through tragedy or pain?

6. How have you changed because of the death of a loved one or even someone you didn’t know

7. Ecclesiastes 7:2 says, “*Frustration is better than laughter, because a sad face is good for the heart.*” In what ways have both frustration and laughter been good for your heart?

8. Do you know anyone who is comfortable talking about their inevitable death? Who is it and how does it affect you?

9. In Philippians 1:23 Paul says, “*I am torn between the two: A desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.*”

*Do you have that tension? Why or why not?

*Have you seen the movie Paul? What did you like most? If you haven't seen it, consider watching the movie.

10. In Romans 12:15 Paul tell us to "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." In Galatians 6:2, he says, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

*Have you rejoiced or mourned with someone lately?

*How do you think carrying each other's burdens fulfills the law of Christ?

11. Ted ended his sermon before he prayed, by giving four or five ways to mourn well and mourn well with others. What were they?

(Don't rush mourning, don't criticize those who mourn differently than you do, don't make your experience the headline, be there, no words necessary (the ministry of presence), though the show must go on, adjust the script.)