**Series: Heaven is Our Hope**

**Sermon- What happens when children die?**

Scriptures – varied.

Wish there was 1 scripture: “All children who die go immediately to heaven and are with Jesus forever.”

Common threads-

1. Sense of helplessness-

2. Sense of loss of their future.

3. May involve prominent sense of guilt.

4. Uncertainty.

5. Sudden and unexpected vs long term illness.

Helpful to consider the variety of life stages of losing a child.

1. **Abortion**: CCEF article by Aaron Seroni -- HEALING FROM POST-ABORTION GREIF. (Google it)

2. **Miscarriage**

3. **Full term pregnancy**.

4. **Infants ~** few months to 2

5. **Toddlers**. ~2-5

6. **Elementary & Preteens** ~5-12

7. **Teen years** ~13-18

8. **Early adulthood 18+**

**TRUTH, TEARS and GRACE - God’s comfort to us.**

**A. TRUTH**

**1. Scripture is not silent in describing God's special heart for the weak, the needy, the afflicted and the defenseless.**

Psalm 9:12 For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; **he does not forget the cry of the afflicted**.  -

Psalm 10:14 But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself; **you have been the helper of the fatherless**.

Psalm 12:5 "Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise," says the LORD; "**I will place him in the safety for which he longs.**"

Psalm 22:24 For he has **not despised or abhorred** the affliction of the **afflicted**, and he has **not hidden his fac**e from him, **but has heard**, when he cried to him.

Psalm 68:5 **Father of the fatherless** and **protector of widows** is God in his holy habitation.

Psalm 72:13 He has **pity on the weak** and the **needy**, and **saves the lives of the needy**.

Psalm 82:3-4 gives **justice to the weak** and the **fatherless**; **maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitut**e.  **Rescue the weak** and the **needy**; **deliver them** from the hand of the wicked."

Ps 116:5 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; **our God is merciful.**

Psalm 140:12 I know that the LORD will **maintain the cause of the afflicted**, and will **execute justice for the needy.**

Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he **had compassion for them**, because they were **harassed and helpless**, like sheep without a shepherd

**2. Scripture points to numerous times of God having a special love for children.**

1. Let the children come to me and **do not hinder them** for two such belong to the kingdom of God. Luke 18:16.
2. Jesus taught we need to **become like children** to enter the kingdom of God. Matt 19:13-14
Matt 19:13-14
3. Jesus uses **children** as examples of faith. Mt 18:2-4.
4. John the Baptist was **filled with the Holy Spirit** and his mother’s womb. Luke 1:15
5. David says **God has been his God** since his mother bore him. Ps 22:10.
6. God told Jeremiah he'd **known him** since before he was formed in his mother's womb. Jer 1:5
7. David about his infant son that died 2 Sam 12:23. “**I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”**
8. Resurrection accounts – 5 of 8 involve children.
	1. Elijah raised the young son of Zarephath’s widow 1 Kings 17:17-24
	2. Elisha raised the son of the Shunamite woman 2 kings 4 :35
	3. Jesus raises the widow’s son in Nain Luke 7:13-15
	4. Jesus raises Jairus’s daughter Mt 9:25
	5. Paul raises Eutycus from the dead Acts 20:9-12

Scripture points to a special salvation for infants and the helpless apart from the normal process of repentance and faith. Because of these truths, we can trust God, in his revealed mercy, and in his special love for children (weak, needy, afflicted and defenseless**),** covers them with the blood of Christ.

(See Mt 18:2-4, Matt 19:13-14, Luke 1:15, Luke 18:16, Ps 22:10, Jer 1:5, 2 Sam 12:23).

Romans 9:15 “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy.”

**B. TEARS and GRACE**

**John 11**

**TRUTH:**

**Martha v21 “ Lord, if you had been here my bother would not have died.”**

Q: “Where were you?”

A: I am the resurrection.

**TEARS**

**Mary v32 “ Lord, if you had been here my bother would not have died.”**

Q: “Where were you?”

A: Jesus wept.

**GRACE:**

V v53 From that day forward, they made plans to **put him to death**.

**Comfort: Whenever you hear or think about the resurrection on that last day – think ->New Heaven -> Sweet Reunions with your child!**