

TRINITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE



www.eden.co.uk/help-my-baby-has-died/

booklet by R Weems

Information appended from a



Trinity
CHILDREN'S CENTRE

TRINITY INTERVENTIONS TEAM

If you would like somebody to talk to
please phone: 021 007 1960 (ask for Jaki or Yolanda)



HELP!

I'VE LOST A CHILD

I'VE LOST MY CHILD
HELP!

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TRINITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Romans 11:33-36

(a) What is the writer so amazed at (v.33)?

(b) What are the answers to the questions of verses 34 & 35?

(c) Why does the author glorify God (v.36)?

Do you think of God in this way? What keeps you from trusting God so that you can glorify him for what has happened in your life?

Matthew 11:28-30

(a) What does Jesus promise?

(b) Who is the promise for?

(c) Have you accepted his invitation? If not, will you?

Confess your need for Christ and ask him to be your savior.

2 Cor. 1:3-4: *How would you tell someone how God spoke to you, blessed you, or changed your life within this heartache?*

Write down a few key thoughts, phrases or particular Bible verses you would want to share.

Psalm 46

- (a) What's your biggest fear when thinking about losing your child?

- (b) What does God promise He'll be to you?

- (c) How does this apply to you right now?

Take a quiet moment and think about what God has promised, and your relationship with Him.

Journal: *Consider which statements in this booklet made the greatest impact on you. Write down a few of them in a notebook.*

Bible: *Write a list of the passages that were meaningful to you. You may find it helpful to memorise them.*

Psalm 16:3-1-2, 5-9, 11

- (a) What does the author mean by – 'I have no good apart from you?'

- (b) What does verse 9 say is the result of doing verses 5-8?

- (c) Why is it good to make God our refuge (v.1)?

Have you made the Lord your refuge?



Now What?

It's an unimaginable grief; the death of a child. It's not supposed to happen that way... parents should die before their children! After the birth of our second daughter, Tina and I wept over the loss of three children we never met; each death made worse by the previous trauma. The weakness felt by a Mom who can't rescue a dying child is multiplied for a Dad who helplessly walks with her, unable to save either of them!

As a pastor I've listened to parents bargain with God for the life of their child, or offer their own lives in exchange for a dying baby. I've left cemeteries with parents who can't walk away from the grave holding the remains of what was their hopes, joy and future contained in a small wooden box.

In these moments we wonder how the world carries on, when everything is so incredibly broken. Nobody can understand our suffering, our sorrow, the loss of what we will never have. First we think it can't be true, praying for a miracle and then we wish for time itself to end so that it never happened in the first place.

Until you are reunited in heaven, this booklet is offered from one sufferer to another. It won't answer your question "why?" But will show you there is a God, and he is faithful and worthy of your trust, even now – especially now. He is the eternal, inextinguishable hope for grieving families.

HOW CAN YOU MEND A BROKEN HEART

Life is full of special moments that we remember: birth-days, weddings, and big holidays. Recalling these days are a source of joy, but not all memories are good!

Remembering can be both a blessing and a curse... Reminding us of both good and bad experiences.

Before we married doctors told Tina it was improbable she would be able to have children. And so it was a surprise and delight when we first fell pregnant.

Steph was born in December 1978 without any problems, and just two years later Angela arrived. But we also wanted a son and so tried again.

Because our first two births were fine, we expected the third to be the same. But in the first trimester Tina bled alot and had to take bed rest. Later that day as the bleeding got worse we went to hospital.

Tina suffered her first miscarriage with a baby so small that it fitted in the palm of my hand.



Horror doesn't begin to describe the feelings we felt that day, but in spite of our sadness we tried again. In May 1984, one week away from her second trimester Tina felt severe cramping.

We went straight to the hospital where we prayed and prayed in hope, only to be told Tina had an ectopic pregnancy.

The baby had been growing in an ovary which was causing the pain. The doctors operated immediately and assured us that neither mother nor child could have survived if we had waited – but the choice to operate, and the way our baby dies, haunts us to this day.



PERSONAL APPLICATION

Psalm 139:1-18

- (a) What do we learn God in this Psalm:

How he is everywhere? _____

How he is in control? _____

- (b) What do we learn about God's work in a child's life?

- (c) What is God's plan for you & your kids?

Take some time now to tell God that you are trusting him with the lives of your children.

Isaiah 53

- (a) Which verses show God's saving plan through Jesus' suffering

- (b) What does this tell you about God & suffering in your life?

- (c) What does Hebrews 4:15-16 tell you about Jesus.

In response spend with your own Father in Heaven, who promises to listen as we join him in prayer.



JESUS OUR SAVIOUR

Hearing about infant salvation gave us real hope; it can also offer hope to a grieving family. We realised that the real answer to our sorrow was not in the eternal welfare of our children who died, or even in the answers of the Bible, but in God.

A desire for answers is greater during grief, yet knowing the answer is not always enough! Rather than being a help manual, the Bible reveals a gracious God who is quick to forgive.

It teaches us that Jesus is both the wisdom and power of God (1 Cor. 1:24), going beyond our question to drive us to the ultimate truth about eternal and abundant life which according to Jesus is only possible through knowing God. Suffering is how God brings us to the end of ourselves so that we can turn to him.

Your sadness will reduce, only to be replaced by another grief. This broken & suffering world reminds us to fix our hopes on God; for he is good and faithful.

I hope this booklet has helped you to grow in a personal knowledge of God (our hope, the anchor of rest, and the Author of salvation).

Sometimes He sees fit to rescue babies from the pain of this fallen world. Their loss makes heaven more appealing & our anticipation more urgent – but it's no cure for sorrow! For that, God must overwhelm you with himself!



IN CONCLUSION

If one word sums up God's plan it is "*promise*"... An unstoppable promise as God proves He's in control of heaven and earth. The resurrection proves this – even death can't stop Him!

There's no way to predict what God will bring to pass in anyone's life. But the gospel promise of Jesus is yours now and forever.

CHILDREN, SIN AND DEATH

My strongest memory from that trial was our ride home. I couldn't take any more... I whispered to my wife "*we can't do this any more!*".

And yet, one year later, Tina had made it to the second trimester! We were both hopeful and fearful. A well meaning friend told us "God is good, he won't let this happen to you again."

A few days later the bleeding came. The doctor assured us it was normal and not to worry. But even as we left the doctor's surgery, it got worse to the point that the doctor himself took us to the emergency room, where Tina delivered her third breathless child.

How is it possible to love and miss somebody you've never met? Both our hearts were again broken by unrealized hopes. Where could we go in such dark times?

We asked each other over and over, "*what happens to babies when they die?*" Neither of us was very religious, but without any answers, Christianity seemed the right place to look.

Truth 1: Life begins at conception.

Truth 2: As Adam's relatives we inherit his sin (even at birth).

Truth 3: God warns the penalty for sin is death. Children like everyone else live under that impending penalty.

Truth 4: Sin separates us from a Holy God (we're spiritually dead).

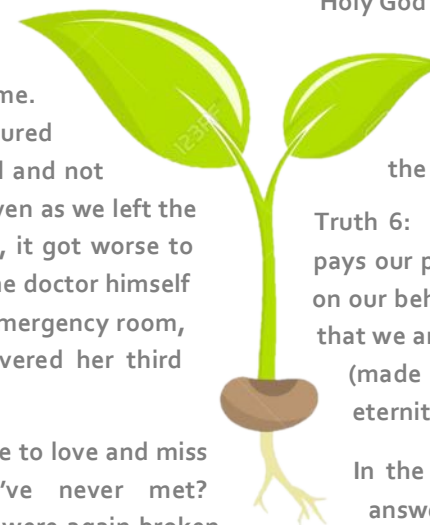
Truth 5: The Gospel says we have mercy & forgiveness for sin in the person of Jesus.

Truth 6: If we believe that Jesus pays our penalty (dies) for our sin, on our behalf, then we can be sure that we are reconciled to God now (made spiritually alive) and for eternity!

In the Bible we began to find answers to big questions.

Would we meet our children born, yet lost? The Bible told us yes... trust God.

We found hope in the gospels and even examples of mercy shown to adults and children who couldn't discern right from wrong in Deuteronomy 1:39 and Jonah 4:11.





GOD IS NOT SILENT (PSALM 139)

Do you know this bedtime prayer?

"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take".

This historic sense of daily dread has been reduced by medical advances but not altogether eliminated. The Psalms are still relevant:

...in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them (v.16).

God, not circumstance determines the life span of every one of us. Before each of our 6 kids were conceived God was there.

God opens & shuts the womb, it's a mystery, but God is there, intricately weaving children together, they are a gift from Him. We, like David found His plans for our family difficult to understand & were left with lots of questions.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it well (Gen.20:14).

"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away." (Job 1:21)

The Bible doesn't have every answer to all our questions, but it does reveal God in the person of Jesus in a way that ultimately answers every question!

GOD WORKS GRACEFULLY WITHIN THE WOMB:

Moses is described as a 'fine child', 'beautiful in God's sight', but he was born a sinner and became a murderer! Isaac also experienced God's grace – telling his father Abraham that he would establish a covenant with his son. A covenant made before he was ever born. Isaac must have been chosen by the Lord – a subject of grace before he was conceived.



David's baby died soon after his birth. Whilst the baby was sick David fasted, wept and prayed. But afterwards he picked himself up, put on fresh clothes and praised God! When asked why he wasn't mourning, David said *"while the child was alive, I fasted & wept... who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child might live? But now he's dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again."*

David knew God's grace was enough for his baby. Once the baby died he focused on reunion with the child in heaven, which helped him to face life with joy.

John the Baptist felt God's Spirit within his mother's womb, as he *"leaped for joy"* (Luke 1:44) upon hearing about Jesus.

Paul was set apart and *"called ...by ...grace"* within the womb (Gal. 1:15-16). There's no reason to believe that baby's who die before birth, or in infancy, or before an age of accountability are with Jesus in heaven.



A GOLDEN CHAIN OF SALVATION:

"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be confirmed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified" (Rom. 8:29-30).

Every act of salvation can be shared by babies because it's based on Christ's death. It's God's grace that saves – not our faith. God can awaken infants to respond to Christ (even in the womb). Saving babies is a perfect image of God's grace (Matt 18:3), and is in harmony with the grace that saves everyone who repents of personal sin and trusts in Jesus.