

Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This message invites us to see grief not as a failure of faith, but as one way we remain honest before God. Job shows us that faithful people can lament, question, and name their pain without walking away from God. Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, goes even deeper—entering grief, injustice, surrender, and death so that our sorrow can be held inside God’s redeeming love. As you discuss, consider where you may need to tell the truth about loss, and who can help you do that safely before God.

1. From week one, what hit you hardest about Job’s losses in chapter 1:1-2:10? If you are comfortable sharing, where have you suffered physically, or emotionally, or spiritually? What part of Job’s response to suffering stands out to you most—his silence, his lament, his honesty, or his refusal to curse God?
2. Read Job 2:11-13 and, if you have time, skim Job 3-14. What surprises you about how Job’s friends support him in his time of tremendous trouble?
3. The sermon says, “Grief is not the enemy of faith; avoidance is.” How does that line challenge or encourage the way you normally think about grief?
4. Why do you think many Christians feel pressure to move too quickly past sadness, loss, or disappointment?
5. Where do you see Jesus grieving honestly while still trusting the Father? How does that shape the way we understand our own sorrow?
6. What are some “ungrieved losses” people carry—losses that may not always be obvious to others?
7. The basement trash image suggests that unaddressed grief eventually leaks out. Have you seen that dynamic in yourself, in relationships, or in the wider world? The sermon included this line: “If you do not heal what hurt you, you’ll bleed on people who did not cut you.” Where do you see that in your own life or our broken world?
8. Who are the safe people or communities where you can tell the truth slowly before God? If you do not have that kind of support, what is one step you could take this season? Note: Two great resources for grieving are *A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Through Loss* by Jerry Sittser and *Healing After Loss: Daily Meditations for Working through Grief* by Martha Hickman. You might consider reading one of these on your own or forming a small group for shared conversations. Close by praying for one another: for courage to tell the truth, for safe companions in grief, and for deeper trust that Jesus meets us in sorrow rather than asking us to pretend it is not there.

Online Giving give.mdpc.orgAll Events events.mdpc.org**Alpha Launch Night****Tue, Sep 8 | 6:30-9pm**

At Alpha Launch, you’ll eat great food and watch an episode in the Alpha series on a question of faith. Everyone’s welcome, no matter your background or beliefs. The evening and childcare are free, so come see if it’s for you! More info and RSVP: alphalaunch.mdpc.org

Ladies Bingo Night**Thu, Sep 10 | 5:30-8:30pm | MDPC**

Get ready for a night of fun, laughter, and connection with women of all ages at MDPC, complete with great prizes and a grand prize finale! Sign up online: bingo.mdpc.org

MomCo: Good Company**Every other Thu, Sep 10-Apr 29 | 9:30-11:30am**

Calling all moms looking for community, encouragement, and a sense of belonging! Whether you’re navigating diapers, school drop-offs, or somewhere in between, you’ll find women who understand. Free childcare. Sign up: momco.mdpc.org

The Family Impact Project**Sat, Sep 12 | Times vary**

Looking for a meaningful way to serve alongside your family? Join us for a one-day opportunity to bless others through simple acts of service. No special skills required! More info and registration: FIP.mdpc.org

Men’s Life: Finding Your True Identity**Tue, Sep 15-Nov 17 | 6:30-7:45am**

In Men’s Life 2026, we’ll discover who you already are in Christ and learn to live from the identity God has given you—not the one the world tries to assign. Learn more and register: ml.mdpc.org

Word and Worship**Weekly, Sep 2026-Feb 2027**

Grow deeper in your faith through the book of Daniel. It contains some of the stories we are most familiar with, but also many others that are often neglected - this study will cover all of them! Many day and time options for groups. Learn more and register: wandw.mdpc.org

Blast Off**Wed, Sep 16-Nov 18 | 5:30-7pm**

Calling all 1st–5th Graders! Get ready to zoom into a galaxy of fun, faith, and friendship at our awesome mid-week program! Find all the details and sign up online: blastoff.mdpc.org

Noche de Sabor, “Night of Flavor”**Sat, Sep 19 | 6-9pm**

Everyone’s invited to our free annual multicultural celebration! We come together each year to lift up the different cultures represented in our Spanish-language congregation. Come hungry and get to know your Fuente family! nds.mdpc.org

Make an IMPACT!**Training: Sun, Sep 20 | 12:30pm**

Games. Conversation. Friendship. That’s all it takes to make a difference! Spend just 30 minutes each week with a child who would benefit from another caring adult in their life: impact.mdpc.org

Youth Confirmation Retreat/Classes**Sundays, Sep 20-Nov 8 | 9:45am | MS Room**

Confirmation is for rising students in grades 9-12 who are prepared to declare their faith in Jesus and join MDPC as members. The confirmation retreat is Sep 11-13 at Camp Cho-Yeh. Learn more and register: confirmation.mdpc.org



Help 3,000 Local Kids Start the School Year with Confidence!



Our community goal is to raise \$50 each for 3,000 students. Your donations allow local parents to shop for uniforms and other school essentials so children can begin the new school year ready to learn and thrive.

Give at our Breezeway table or at MAMBTs.mdpc.org!



As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship	Amy Delgado
*Songs of Praise	Forever (Give Thanks to the Lord) Come Now Is the Time to Worship
Confession & Assurance	Dan Aikins
Song of Response	Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)
Prayer	Kelsi McCormack
Worship Song	Only Jesus

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Faith After the Funeral: The Job Journey Grief Isn't a Detour (Job 2:11-13 and 3-14 NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Offertory	It Is Well with My Soul
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SENDING

*Benediction	Alf Halvorson
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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship	Michael Middleton
*Songs of Praise	Great Things Freedom in this House Who You Say I Am
Confession & Assurance	Christyn Knoop
Welcome	Kelsi McCormack
Worship Song	Only Jesus

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Faith After the Funeral: The Job Journey Grief Isn't a Detour (Job 2:11-13 and 3-14 NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Offertory	It Is Well Medley
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SENDING

*Benediction	Alf Halvorson
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Blended and Contemporary Worship Leaders
MDPC Worship Team: Uvaldo Callejas, David Cavazos, Asher Pudlo, Will Story
Meliza Gómez, Contemporary Worship Director | Michael Middleton, Generational Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Preludes	Partita in A	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Call to Worship		Amy Delgado
Choral Introit	I Will Worship the Lord	John Rutter (b. 1945)
*Hymn of Praise	A Might Fortress Is Our God Vs. 1, 3, 4	#260 EIN FESTE BURG
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Dan Aikins
*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed		
*Congregational Response	Glory Be to the Father	#579 GLORI PATRI

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	Like as the Hart	Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
Message	Faith After the Funeral: The Job Journey Grief Isn't a Detour (Job 2:11-13 and 3-14 NRSV)	Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	Abide With Me Vs. 1, 3	#543 EVENTIDE
Prayer		Amy Delgado
Offertory	The Lord Is My Shepherd (from Requiem)	John Rutter

SENDING

*Doxology	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	#592 OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	Toccato	Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

Traditional Worship Leaders
Choral Ensemble | Kelley Edwards, flutist | Kathryn White, organist
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

HAPPENING AROUND MDPC

Come Try the Choir!

The Sanctuary Choir welcomes singers of all ages and experience levels! With varied music and flexible commitments—one Sunday, one month, or all season—there's a place for you. Rehearsals resume Aug 26; the choir returns to worship Aug 30. Learn more: choir.mdpc.org



Remember Our Frontline Mission Partners

MDPC partners in local and global ministry truly covet your prayers! Find out this week's prayer recipients by picking up the prayer booklet available around campus or visit partners.mdpc.org.

Food Service Update

MDPC Cafe and Food Service has moved to a new model, sourcing food from various Houston vendors. Join us for weekday lunch at MDPC Café to experience the updates! More info: cafe.mdpc.org

Officer Nominations

This **Tuesday is the final day to nominate!** Whose gifts may be calling them into leadership at MDPC as a future Elder or Deacon? Submit nominations at nominate.mdpc.org.

Financial Update as of Aug 16, 2026

2026 Annual Budget	\$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	8,111,693
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	6,617,035

Births and Deaths

Roger Conant passed away August 14.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.