



## WEEK 4 - PAIN OVERVIEW

To discuss the broken place of pain, we must start by acknowledging the universality of pain and the many forms it takes (body, mind, and spirit). From the grief we experience at the loss of a loved one, to the anxiety and depression so often clouding our minds, to the chronic illness and pain which beset our bodies, pain is a part of all of our lives.

Then we must explore the character of our God as one in the business of *healing* that pain (a.k.a. *Jehovah rapha* – “the God who heals,” Exodus 15:26). In Psalm 147 the psalmist depicts God as being actively involved in healing our pain: rebuilding broken cities, bringing exiles home, healing the brokenhearted, bandaging wounds, supporting the humble, and blessing children. Luke 6:17-19 describes Jesus doing very much the same thing (“He healed everyone”). What might it look like for us to put our trust in a God who heals? And how might we join him in that healing work in the lives of others?

*The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem and bringing the exiles back to Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.  
**Psalm 147:2-3***

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the broken place of *pain*. In what ways does pain affect people?
2. Read [Luke 17:21](#), including footnote, and [Mark 1:14-15](#).
  - a. How can the Kingdom of God be near? What do you think that means?
  - b. If the Kingdom of God was near, what evidence would we find regarding the broken place of *pain*?
3. Discuss the idea of the *immanence* and *transcendence* of God ([Psalm 147:2-3](#), [John 1:10-14](#), [Luke 6:17-19](#)).

A man that looks on glass,  
On it may stay his eye;  
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass,  
And then the heavens espy. – George Herbert

4. Read [2 Corinthians 4:6-10](#), [16-18](#), [Hebrews 11:1](#), and the poem Maron shared from George Herbert.
  - a. What does it mean to “*fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen*” (verse 18)?
  - b. How can you live in the *now* and the *not yet*? (see [Psalm 91:1-2](#), [Romans 5:1-5](#))
  - c. Do you think this could help heal the broken place of pain? Why or why not?
5. How have you found hope in the midst of pain?
6. What light could you bring, what hope could you share, with someone who is experiencing pain?