



## Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - January 22, 2012

### Sermon

Responding to Today's  
Issues:

*"Cancer and Other  
Terminal Illnesses"*

Jeremiah 8:16-22

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember  
about this sermon...

Monday 1/23/2012

Jeremiah 8:16

All of us have known sorrow on one level or another. The prophet Jeremiah is speaking of sorrow that has come upon him and since he is speaking on behalf of God, this means that God knows sorrow, too. God not only identifies with our sorrow but God relates to it and experiences sorrow right with us. Think how God must have felt when Jesus, the Son, was crucified. Sorrow is a feeling that many of us experience, even God.

Tuesday 1/24/2012

Jeremiah 8:19

This verse asks a lot of questions and don't we ask a lot of questions when we sorrow or receive word that cancer is present? Why me? Why now? How can this be? Why? Some people were taught that we should never question God but I believe that God is big enough to take even our most difficult questions. So, go ahead and ask God questions, even hard questions, when you pray. You might be surprised to receive an answer!

Wednesday 1/25/2012

Jeremiah 8:21

"I am broken," says Jeremiah. Have you ever been broken? Broken down in body, mind, and/or spirit? This can be a lonely feeling. Oftentimes, people who receive the word they have cancer or another terminal illness feel all alone. We need to support them not only through our prayers, but also through all kinds of contacts--sending cards, phone calls, visits, and more. At a time like this, a person should not be isolated or alone. Some people do experience alienation when they have a terminal illness, which is just the opposite of what they really need. Don't be a stranger to someone with cancer or some other terminal illness. Walk the journey right beside them!



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<p>Things to do this week in response to the sermon...</p> <p><i>How many people do you know who have cancer or some other terminal illness?</i></p> <p><i>What can I do for someone who has cancer?</i></p>	<p>Thursday 1/26/2012 Psalm 139:1-4</p> <p>God knows us inside and out. This sometimes is hard to believe and comprehend because sometimes our feelings get away from ourselves and we don't even know how to respond to life's difficulties ourselves. But God knows us and our deepest feelings. Moreover, God watches each and every step of our life--the good and the bad, the ups and the downs. We are never apart from God if we accept this comforting presence! Know that you are in God's care and comfort no matter what!</p>
<p><i>Where is the hope and comfort for someone experiencing agonizing pain in their treatment?</i></p> <p><i>Where is God in our suffering?</i></p>	<p>Friday 1/27/2012 Romans 8:17-23</p> <p>We are not just connected to God as believers but we are also children and heirs of Almighty God! This scripture passage promises that if we suffer pain we will also experience glory! Do you really believe this deep down in your soul? Paul says, there is no comparison between the pain of this present time to the glory we will see in the future. This is the hope we need to hang on to and believe in, especially as we go through difficult times. There is hope in the Lord!</p>
	<p>Saturday 1/28/2012 Philippians 2:27-30</p> <p>Yes, we experience ill-health and even death. Jesus did, too. And if God had mercy on Jesus, then God will have mercy on us, too! As a matter of fact, this is part of the reason God sent Jesus into the world. Because he lives, we will live again, too. Sometimes there is great release and even joy in an earthly death as a person no longer has to experience such pain and suffering in this world, but is privileged to enter into her or his eternal reward. God is good all the time even as we experience the ups, downs, and pains of this life. There is great hope and reward to come and this is worth hanging on to! Believe in God and hope!</p>