

THE CRISIS AND TRAUMA SERIES

WHAT IS GOD'S HEART ON
BULLYING?



Excerpt from

KEYS FOR LIVING LIBRARY



BULLYING

Bullied—No More!

What Is God's Heart on Bullying?

In the classroom and on social media, from the playground to the nursing home—bullying happens everywhere. Bullying situations typically involve at least three people: the bully, the bullied, and the bystander. God's Word speaks to all three, providing guidance to prevent, stop, intervene, and respond to this destructive issue.

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
(PSALM 119:105)*

God sees your pain and cares about your suffering.

"You have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul" (PSALM 31:7 NLT).

God understands the pain of being bullied, harassed, and abused.

"He [Jesus] was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem" (ISAIAH 53:3).

God offers healing to those who have been hurt by bullying.

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (PSALM 147:3).

God can redeem your painful experiences and use them for His good purposes.

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (GENESIS 50:20).

God calls for bullies to change their abusive, violent ways.

"Give up your violence and oppression and do what is just and right" (EZEKIEL 45:9).

God offers complete forgiveness to those who turn to Him in repentance.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 JOHN 1:9).

God wants bystanders to intervene and help those who are being hurt by bullies.

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act" (PROVERBS 3:27).

God does not want bystanders to turn a blind eye to those being bullied and treated unjustly.

"Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, 'But we knew nothing about this,' does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?" (PROVERBS 24:11–12).

God will hold each person accountable for their actions, including bullies and bystanders.

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account” (HEBREWS 4:13).

God wants you to defend and stand up for the oppressed, weak, and bullied.

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed” (PSALM 82:3).

“In the classroom and on social media, from the playground to the nursing home—bullying happens everywhere.”

Go Deeper

Keys for Living Books

Want to learn more about this topic? Check out the *Keys for Living Library* to discover biblical hope and practical help on this topic and many more. The *Keys for Living* are designed to help you—and help you help others—overcome difficulties, grow in maturity, and move forward in life.

hopefortheheart.org/keys

Topical Video Training

Check out our *Lifeline to Hope* Topical Video Course on this topic. These videos provide biblical insights and practical guidance on specific emotional, relational, and spiritual issues.

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4 POINTS OF GOD'S PLAN

Whether you're trying to make sense of your past, trying to overcome something in the present, or trying to make changes for a better future, the Lord cares about you. He loves you. No matter what challenges you or your loved ones are facing, no matter the pain or difficult feelings you may be experiencing, no matter what you've done or what's been done to you, *there is hope*. And that hope is found in Jesus Christ.

God has a plan for your life, and it begins with a personal relationship with Jesus. The most important decision you can ever make is whether you will accept His invitation. If you have never made that decision, these four simple truths can help you start your journey together with Him.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,
‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.’”*

(JEREMIAH 29:11)

God's Purpose for You: *Salvation*

What was God's motivation in sending Jesus Christ to earth? To express His love for you by saving you! The Bible says, *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him”* (John 3:16–17).

What was Jesus' purpose in coming to earth? To forgive your sins, to empower you to have victory over sin, and to enable you to live a fulfilled life! Jesus said, *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”* (John 10:10).

The Problem: *Sin*

What exactly is sin? Sin is living independently of God's standard—knowing what is wrong and doing it anyway—also knowing what is right and choosing not to do it. The apostle Paul said, *“I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway”* (Romans 7:18–19 NLT).

What is the major consequence of sin? Spiritual death, eternal separation from God. The Bible says, *“Your iniquities [sins] have separated you from your God”* (Isaiah 59:2). Scripture also says, *“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23).

God's Provision for You: *The Savior*

Can anything remove the penalty for sin? Yes! Jesus died on the cross to personally pay the penalty for your sins. The Bible says, *“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8).

What is the solution to being separated from God? Belief in (entrusting your life to) Jesus Christ as the only way to God the Father. Jesus said, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6). The Bible says, *“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved . . .”* (Acts 16:31).

Your Part: *Surrender*

Give Christ control of your life, entrusting yourself to Him. Jesus said, *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”* (Matthew 16:24–26).

Place your faith in (rely on) Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and reject your “good works” as a means of earning God’s approval. The Bible says, *“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast”* (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Has there been a time in your life when you know you’ve humbled your heart and received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior—giving Him control of your life? You can tell God that you want to surrender your life to Christ in a simple, heartfelt prayer like this:

*“God, I want a real relationship with you.
I admit that many times I’ve chosen to go my own way instead of your way.
Please forgive me for my sins.
Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins.
Come into my life to be my Lord and my Savior.
Change me from the inside out and make me
the person you created me to be.
In your holy name I pray. Amen.”*

What Can You Now Expect?

When you surrender your life to Christ, you receive the Holy Spirit who empowers you to live a life pleasing to God. The Bible says, *“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life . . .”* (2 Peter 1:3). Jesus assures those who believe with these words:

*“Truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me
has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”*
(JOHN 5:24)

The information in this resource is intended as guidelines for healthy living. Please consult qualified medical, legal, pastoral, and psychological professionals regarding individual concerns.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

God gives us His Word not just for information but for transformation. The Lord wants you to “*be transformed by the renewing of your mind*” (Romans 12:2). This isn’t something you do alone, but something God does in you by His Spirit.

The following questions are designed to help you reflect on the biblical truths in this resource. Take a moment to pray and ask God to settle your mind and quiet your spirit as you reflect on His truth.

“Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.”
(2 TIMOTHY 2:7)

What are two key truths, Bible verses, or “takeaways” from this resource that you found helpful—or that you simply needed to be reminded of?

In relation to this topic, what behavior(s) do you need to *begin, change, or stop* in order to help you grow into the person God created you to be?

In relation to this topic, what is the biggest obstacle you need to overcome in order to move forward?

What might your life look like a few years from now if you do *not* make changes regarding this issue? How might your life be different if you *do* make changes?

Is there anyone in your life who needs help with this topic/issue? How can you pray for them, and what is one thing you can do to encourage them?

What can you give thanks to God for today?

*“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself
and God our Father, who loved us
and by his grace gave us eternal comfort
and a wonderful hope,
comfort you and strengthen you
in every good thing you do and say.”
(2 THESSALONIANS 2:16–17 NLT)*

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

You can get any of our *Lifeline to Hope* Topical Video Courses for 30% off!



**Use code TOPICAL30 at checkout
and take 30% off today!**

Our topical video courses provide biblical instruction and practical guidance on specific emotional, relational, and spiritual issues such as Abuse, Addiction, Anger, Anxiety, Depression, Fear, Forgiveness, Grief, Marriage, Parenting, Stress, and more. Get the tools to face life's challenges with courage and confidence.

These video courses are great for:

- Personal study and growth—helping you overcome specific personal challenges
- Learning how to help others move toward greater freedom and spiritual maturity
- Anyone who wants to learn more about what God's Word teaches on various subjects

Each video course includes a downloadable workbook with helpful, biblical insights on the topic and discussion questions for further study and growth.

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