

# TAKING WORSHIP INTO YOUR WEEK



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**There's an "app" for almost anything we can imagine.** Want to keep your favorite restaurant's menu handy? There's an app for that. Wanting to keep track of how many steps you take during the day? There's an app for that, too. What to know how to deal with your mother-in-law when she's over at the house? There's an app for that. . . or so I'm told. If it's amazing to us how many apps we've invented to help us in any situation, we people of faith can be sure that our God has an "app" for everything in life. Every one of those apps is found in his Word. This Sunday, we begin our new series, "There's an App for That" with grief as our focus: There's an app for that, and it's the presence of Jesus.

1. "Grief" is almost never about the experience of one loss; it's almost always our response to numerous losses. Can you identify losses you have sustained lately, about which you are in grief, or in need of grieving?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and, consulting your study Bible, discover the context in which Peter wrote these words. Where was he? To whom was he writing? What were their losses?
3. In verse 5, faith is pictured as a "shield." Using your concordance, find other instances of faith being described this way. Which do you think is true: The "shield" keeps grief away, or the "shield" keeps loss away? What's the reason for your answer?
4. Read again vs. 7. How might the way you respond to loss result in "praise, glory, and honor" to Jesus? How do you understand what is meant by "when Jesus Christ is revealed?" Is that a reference to the Last Day, or every time you grieve in faith and hope?
5. In light of vs. 8, use your concordance to find New Testament examples of God's people finding "joy" in the midst of grief or sorrow. What are you going through right now which you pray will end with that joy?

We pray: Lord Jesus, as you have promised us through your prophet Isaiah that you have "borne our griefs and carried our sorrows," we ask that we will surrender the grief which we bear now, and the grief we will bear in the future, because you are with us, so that our grief will turn to joy, because your presence in our lives is more powerful and precious. We pray it in your name, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever. Amen.