

## **“I Don’t Wait Anymore” chapter 9 study outline**

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is one we’ve looked at already, Psalm 56:8 — *“You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?”* It’s a verse that shows us the depth of God’s intimate love for us — He remembers our tears and knows exactly why, how, and how often we face painful emotions. And He weeps with us — we see that through Jesus in John 11:35.

It’s an incredible gift from the God of the universe, to love us that way. But sometimes when things get dark, it can be hard to keep that truth at the front of our minds. Can you think of a time in your life when you’ve questioned if God saw you, or what in the world He might be doing through your situation? Have you even at times questioned whether or not He loves you, or if He is even good?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 4.**

- In the months leading up to my friend Clare’s death, a friend had been holding me accountable to memorize this chapter. After her death, when I couldn’t do anything else, I said the words over and over to myself. It turned out to be a balm for the broken pieces of my heart when I needed it most.
- **Look at verses 7-9.** How does it help us to remember that we’re placed in weak bodies (“jars of clay”) for a reason? Now look at all the “but not” combinations. What does the first word tell us about what we’ll face in this life? What does the one after the “but not” show us about God’s faithfulness?
- **Now look at verses 16-18.** How does it make you feel that Paul called everything in verses 7-9 a “light, momentary affliction”? For him to put our pain here on earth (which feels big sometimes) into those words, what does that tell us about the magnitude of what’s to come in heaven? (Look at Revelation 21-22 again for a visual, if you’d like.) Can you see why it’s vital that we fix our eyes on what’s to come, even when things are difficult? And how does it help to know that what’s happening to us here isn’t purposeless, it’s preparing us for there?

### **Questions for discussion:**

- Think back on a storm in your life. How would you say you dealt with it?
- Does it help you to know that Jesus Himself weeps with you and that what you’re going through is preparing a place for you where you will never shed another tear?
- Sometimes we hear people say things like, “The best is yet to come,” and we think that means in this life. How does it change our thinking to know that the “best” that’s still to come is in heaven, face to face with Jesus? How does it change everything to know that your story here is just a few paragraphs of the big story that you’re a part of and that will be written for all eternity?
- Have you been pursuing Jesus in such a way that you feel anticipation for the day that you’ll get to be with Him? How can you dig into His Word this week?
- Would you want to consider setting a goal of memorizing some of 2 Cor. 4?