CALVARY
BIBLE CHURCH

HomeGroup **LEADERS** Discussion Questions
Mar 27th-Apr 2nd Stand-Alone Sermon

FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, THIS IS A TOUGH WEEK. THE QUESTIONS BELOW ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE USUAL STYLE—THEY'RE INTENDED TO HELP EVERYONE PROCESS THEIR EXPERIENCE BY EXPRESSING THEIR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT. TOP PRIORITIES FOR THIS WEEK SHOULD BE TO LISTEN WELL AND TO ALLOW FOR PEOPLE TO BE SAD, ANGRY, CONFUSED, FEARFUL AND/OR NUMB. IDEALLY, SPEND TIME AHEAD OF YOUR MEETING PRAYING FOR YOUR GROUP, ESPECIALLY THAT THEY WOULD FIND HOPE AND COMFORT IN THE GOSPEL.

We are stepping away from our scheduled final week in the *Battle Ready* series in order to give attention to what we all would rather forget. It's important for us to orient our hearts and minds to what God's Word says about tragedy and to give expression to our own range of emotions with others who call on the name of the Lord. This likely isn't a time to expect clear, satisfying answers to all our questions, but this could be a good opportunity for us, together, to listen to and seek the God of all comfort (2 Cor 1:3-4).

1. Take a few minutes to share your story from this week. How did you hear about what was going on at King Soopers and what was your initial reaction?

2. What kind of emotions have you experienced this week in the aftermath of Monday's events? How would you describe your emotions now?

3. Pastor Tom gave three categories: *lament*, *warning*, and *comfort*. Which of these feels most important or helpful to you as you look back over the days since the tragedy? Why?

4. What difference does it make that there are many examples from the Bible of God's people experiencing suffering, sorrow, and tragedy? Even more, what difference does it make that we believe in a God who, in Jesus, subjected Himself to suffering, sorrow, and tragedy?
It's natural for us to want to know why something like this happened. Try to encourage your group to instead focus on the fact that we have a God who has endured great sorrow and has overcome the ultimate source of all sorrow. God is not detached from or unaware of what sorrow entails. He knows is personally. One day we too will experience the full impact of what God's victory over sin entails. In the meantime, sorrow is a part of our experience.

5. Spiritual darkness was apparent this week in Boulder. What impact have these events had on your faith...or, what impact do you hope they have on your faith? For example, are you feeling a deeper longing for God's Kingdom or are you less confident in it?

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We encourage you to pray together and for each other. We often are at a loss for words in the face of tragedy, which is normal. Consider these words from Romans 8:

> *26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

There are many things you might pray for, but here are a few ideas if you feel stuck:
- For the families, friends, and coworkers of those who were killed.
- For those who witnessed the events in person.
- For the first responders who were on the scene and who lost a colleague and friend. Pray for their families as well.
- For the city leaders who need God's wisdom to respond well to what happened.
- For the city of Boulder. Pray for spiritual revival around Jesus.
- For Calvary and other churches in Boulder—that we would be ready and willing to share the gospel message with those who are hurting and looking for hope.
- For our children whose sense of safety and security has been shaken. Pray they would find comfort and hope in Jesus.