

A 7-Day Bereavement Reading Pack

For a grieving family in the week around a funeral, or to give with a sympathy card.

Comforting KJV scriptures for funerals, memorial services, sympathy cards, and times of grief.

How to use this pack

- One page a day. If a day is too much, sit with the verse alone.
- There is no right answer to any prompt. Half-finished sentences are fine.
- Give the pack to someone grieving instead of asking them how they are.

The seven days

Day 1 — God is near · Psalm 23:1-4

Day 2 — Permission to weep · John 14:1-3

Day 3 — Remembering · Revelation 21:4

Day 4 — The valley · Romans 8:38-39

Day 5 — Hope beyond the grave · 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Day 6 — Comfort to give · 2 Corinthians 5:8

Day 7 — Carrying it forward · John 11:25-26

In times of loss, God's Word offers comfort that transcends our grief. These King James Bible verses speak of hope, resurrection, and the promise of eternal life. Whether you are preparing remarks for a funeral service, writing a heartfelt sympathy card, choosing a passage for a memorial program, or simply seeking solace in your own quiet moments of mourning, these scriptures remind us that death is not the end and that our loved ones who die in Christ are safely in the arms of the Lord.

God is near

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:1-4 (KJV)

The most beloved funeral passage

Devotion prompt

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart. Where have you felt nearness this week, even briefly — and where have you only felt absence?

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

Permission to weep

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:1-3 (KJV)

Jesus' promise of heaven

Devotion prompt

Jesus wept at a grave he was about to open. What have you not let yourself cry about yet?

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

Remembering

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:4 (KJV)

The hope of eternity without suffering

Devotion prompt

Write down one thing about them that nobody else would think to say at the service.

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

The valley

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39 (KJV)

Nothing can separate us from God's love

Devotion prompt

Psalm 23 says through the valley, not around it. What does 'through' mean for you this week — one small thing you will still do?

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

Hope beyond the grave

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (KJV)

Hope for those who grieve

Devotion prompt

What do you actually believe about where they are? Write it plainly, doubts included.

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

Comfort to give

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8 (KJV)

Immediate presence with Christ

Devotion prompt

Who else is grieving this loss and being overlooked? Reach out to one of them.

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

Carrying it forward

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

John 11:25-26 (KJV)

Jesus' words to Martha

Devotion prompt

What will you keep doing in their memory? Choose something small and repeatable.

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

More verses for this season

Keep this page for cards, texts, and the days when you need different words.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Psalms 116:15 (KJV)

God values His people's homecoming

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 41:10 (KJV)

God's presence in times of fear

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4 (KJV)

Jesus' promise to those who grieve

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 34:18 (KJV)

God draws near to the brokenhearted

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 (KJV)

Victory over death

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 46:1 (KJV)

God as our refuge in dark times

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the
righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them
also that love his appearing.*

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (KJV)

A life well-lived for Christ

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21 (KJV)

Paul's perspective on death

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever
believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

John 3:16 (KJV)

The promise of everlasting life

A prayer for this season

Lord, you are close to the broken-hearted, and we have nowhere else to go. Hold us in the days when it is worse rather than better, and keep our hope in the resurrection. Amen.

Practical ways to use these verses

- Psalm 23 is traditional and universally comforting — suitable for any funeral or memorial
- John 14:1-3 offers specific hope of heaven and is ideal for the eulogy or opening prayer
- Revelation 21:4 is perfect for closing remarks, leaving mourners with a hopeful vision
- Use shorter verses like Matthew 5:4 or Philippians 1:21 for sympathy cards
- Romans 8:38-39 reassures of God's unbreakable love — powerful for grieving spouses
- 2 Timothy 4:7-8 beautifully honors someone who lived a faithful life
- Combine Psalm 23 with John 14 for a complete funeral reading that covers both comfort and hope

Notes and prayer requests

Read the full collection, with every verse in context, at biblesundays.com/life-events/funeral-verses — free KJV verse collections, printables, and reading plans for every season of life. Free to print and share; please keep this page attached.