## LIVING HOPE DEMENTIA CAREGIVER SUPPORT COMMUNITY

### Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions & Opening Prayer TBD
- Worship Music I've Come Too Far to Look Back (The Hoppers)
- Discussion Video His Grace is Enough: Pressing on with Hope - Ed
- Open Discussion Dena
- Prayer Requests Sharon
- Closing & Prayer Sharon

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# PRESSINGON with Mope

### 2 Corinthians 4 ESV

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

### 2 Corinthians 4 ESV

12 So death is at work in us, but life in you. 13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, 14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

### 2 Corinthians 4 ESV

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

### Main Idea

Even in the exhausting journey of dementia care, God's strength sustains us, His glory awaits us, and His unseen promises give us courage to press on.



### SIRENGTH

in weakness

### God's Strength in Weakness

- Caregiving often feels like pouring from an empty cup.
- We are not the source of strength God is.
  - 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

    (2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV)

### God's Strength in Weakness

 We have this treasure in jars of clay - fragile vessels, yet filled with divine power.

13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13 ESV)

### God's Strength in Weakness

- God sends us in the strength we have—He fills in the rest.
- 14 And the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" (Judges 6:14 ESV)
- We don't need to be superheroes God meets us in our limits & carries us beyond them.



- The heartbreak of watching a loved one fade is real Scripture reframes suffering with eternal perspective.
- The hard days are real, but they are not the end of the story.
- Today's troubles are light compared to the eternal glory they're producing.
- 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, (2 Corinthians 4:17 ESV)

 What we suffer now can't compare to the glory that's coming.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18 ESV)

Trials refine our faith, making it shine with eternal value.

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:6–7 ESV)

- God will wipe away every tear—no more death, sorrow, or pain.
- 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4 ESV)

- Grief may linger for a while, but it will be replaced with eternal joy.
- 5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. (Psalm 30:5 ESV)

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### Keep Your Eye on the Prize

- Dementia care can feel like a slow erosion of what once was - Faith lifts our gaze beyond what's visible.
- We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen & eternal.
- Faith is being sure of what we hope for, even when we can't see it.

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1 ESV)

### Keep Your Eye on the Prize

- We can set our minds on things above—not just our daily struggles.
  - 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are are on earth. (Colossians 3:2 ESV)
- Our investment is in heaven, where nothing fades or fails.
  - 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:20 ESV)

### Keep Your Eye on the Prize

• Our hope is for what we do not yet see - and wait for it with patience.

24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Romans 8:24–25 ESV)

### **Discussion Questions**

- When have you felt worn out or overwhelmed—and still found the strength to keep going?
- What helps you remember that this season of caregiving won't last forever & that something good can come from it?
- How do you stay hopeful when the day-to-day challenges feel discouraging or heavy?
- What gives you the sense that you're not alone in this that help or grace shows up when you need it?

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