

A lighthouse with a bright light shining out against a starry night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible.

HOPE for the GRIEVING

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with Him the believers who have died.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NLT)



**He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there will be no more death or
sorrow or crying or pain. All these
things are gone forever.”**

Revelation 21:4



So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. ²² Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. ²³ But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when He comes back.

1 Corinthians 15:21-23

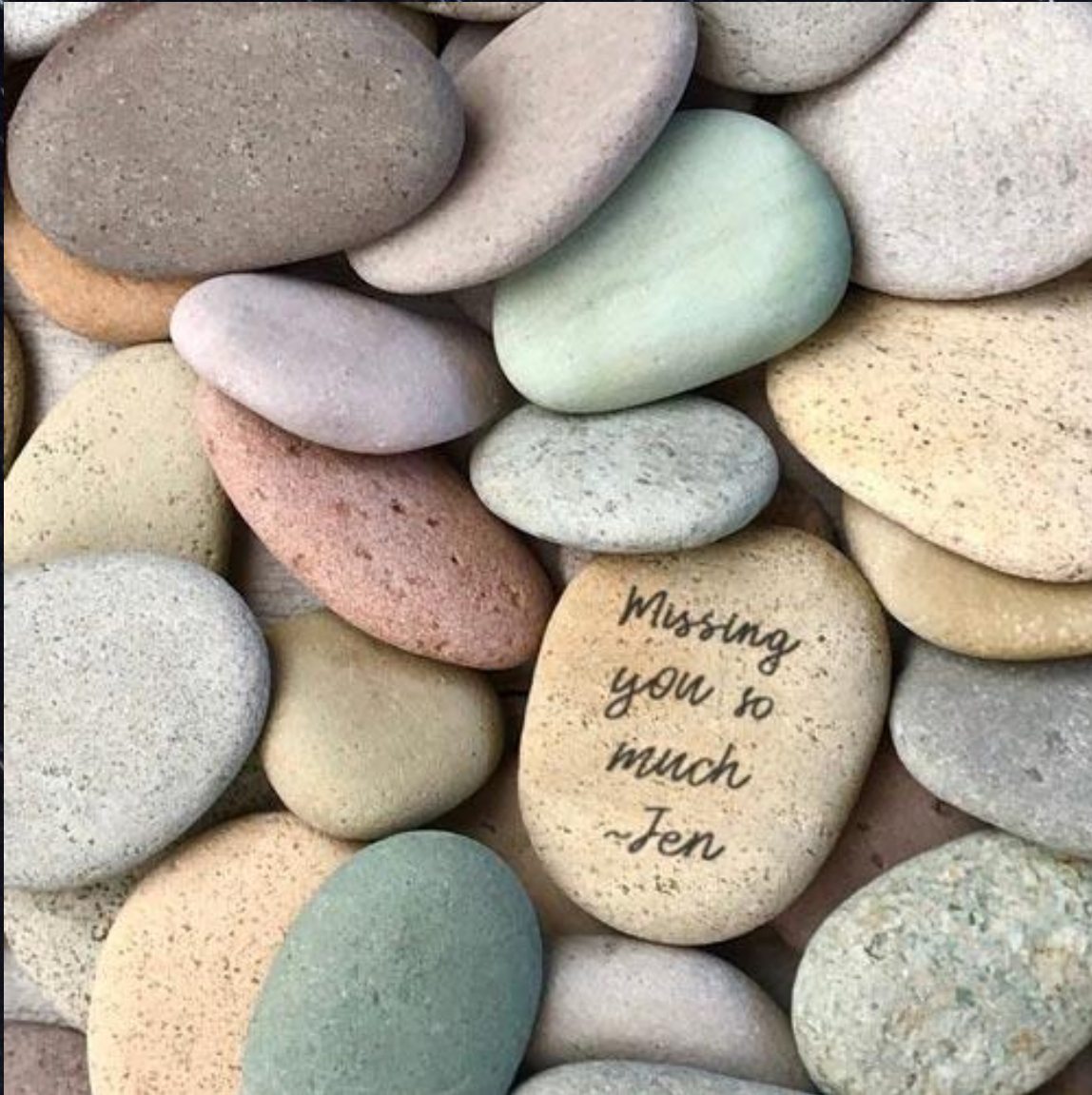


It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. ⁴³ Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. ⁴⁴ They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44



Lament Service-Memorial Stones



Take a few stones and write on each one a loss you've experienced. Bring to church building and place in bottle.



Listening Prayer #1

Loss can make us feel angry, defeated, sad, uncertain, cautious, cynical.

Ask God to reveal to you how loss has impacted you during this pandemic.

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;
He rescues those whose spirits are crushed.*

Psalms 34:18



Listening Prayer #2

David cried out to Yahweh with his questions in the Psalms.

Ask God your questions & express to Him how you wish things would have turned out.

O LORD, how long will You forget me? Forever?

How long will You look the other way?

*² How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul,
with sorrow in my heart every day? Psalm 13:1-2a*



Listening Prayer #3

Even in loss, God is present.

Ask God to give you a picture, a word, or an understanding of where He was during your personal experience(s) of loss.

*God blesses those who mourn,
for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4*



Listening Prayer #4

God's Word can shine a light into dark places.

Ask God for truth from His Word, the Bible, to sustain You in the coming days.

*You light a lamp for me. The LORD, my God,
lights up my darkness. Psalm 18:28*



What Now?

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.

When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

1 Corinthians 1:3-4

