

# Pressures, concerns and questions

## Personal circumstances

- Health
- Finances
- Bereavement



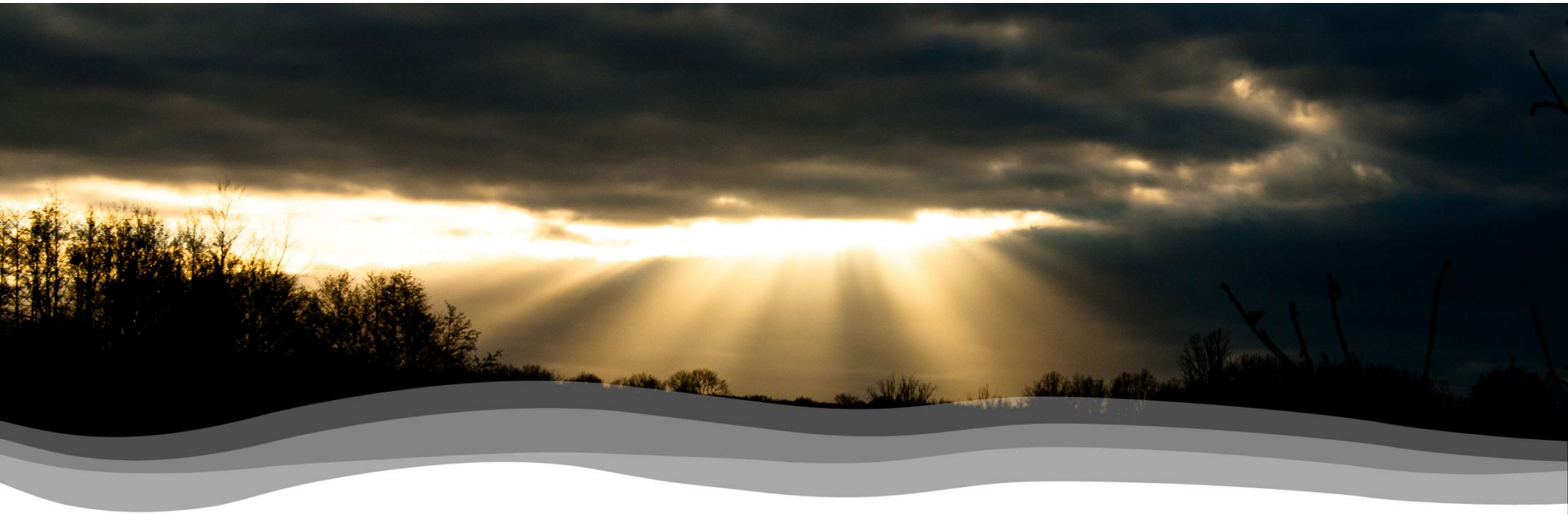
Photo by Annie Spratt on unsplash

## World events

- War
- Natural disasters
- Political instability
- Economic uncertainty
- Societal breakdown



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**1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:10**

# **The promise of his coming**

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11, NIV



# Be reassured: The promise of Jesus

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

John 14:3, NIV



# **Be reassured: The resurrection of the body**

... Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep ... in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:20–22, NIV





## **Be reassured: A restored creation**

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:13, NIV



# **Be prepared: Faith, love and hope**

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober,  
putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the  
hope of salvation as a helmet.

1 Thessalonians 5:8, NIV



# Be prepared: Live it right

... encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:12, NIV



# Be encouraged

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:18, NIV

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV