



## Ghosts Of Christmas Past

Week Four: Letting Go of Grief to Embrace New Life

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

*God is always giving birth to new things, and new people.*

**THIS SERIES**—focuses on what it means to let go of the “ghosts” of our past as we lean expectantly into the new things God is bringing to the world and to our lives.

**Today**—we’re talking about grief...

*My first encounter with loss—Farrah Fawcett Gerbil & Resurrection*

**All Our Grievs All Our Losses**—there’s so many....

*The Christmas Hangover—It’s a real thing.*

*We feel the losses more intently during this season....*

*What happens when nothing changed, though?*

**GOD IS ALWAYS GIVING BIRTH TO NEW THINGS  
AND NEW PEOPLE**

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

- The imagery here is connected to a backstory
- There was wilderness on the other side of liberation
- The prophet calls up those images once again to show God’s love
- Forget the former things—what’s about to happen is amazing.
- You grieved what was lost, but now it’s time to embrace new life.

**God wants God’s people to learn from losses, to be shaped by grief, but not to be consumed by it.**

**Your Loss Was Not A Judgement—It Just Happened**

*You are not to blame—God doesn’t work that way.*

*When you get this it sets you free to do the work of healing.*

**Step Outside Yourself and Your Circumstances**

*Talking, Volunteering, Self-Care & Support*

**GOD IS ALWAYS GIVING BIRTH TO NEW THINGS  
AND NEW PEOPLE**



**SERMON EXTRAS &  
FURTHER READING**

**FOR FURTHER READING:**

***Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu***

*The Book of Forgiving*

***Sidney & Suzanne Simon***

*Forgiveness: How to Make Peace with Your Past and Get On With Your Life*

***D. atrick Miller***

*The Way of Forgiveness: Letting Go, Easing Stress and Building Strength*

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**DAILY DEVOTIONALS THIS WEEK:**

*The daily devotionals will be posted on Pastor Leon’s blog, linked on his Tumblr account, the church’s Facebook Page and Twitter.*