

Flora Williams, “Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death: Sacred and Secular Responses,” pages 31-45

1. Flora Williams talks about preparing all her life to trust in God. What kind of preparation have you done to increase your trust? Tell about a time you needed to draw on that trust.
2. Tragedies change us permanently, but sometimes tragedy is also an opportunity—an opportunity for growth, a relationship with God, a rediscovery of the strength of family and friends. Name a tragedy that happened in your community? What came of it? How did people grow?
3. “When in trouble, praise God.” Flora did not ask God for help when she was seriously injured. She offered praise. What difference would it make to praise God when our first impulse is to seek comfort, guidance, or strength?
4. “A faith-driven life is focused on Christ, not on crisis.” What does Flora Williams mean by this? Think of examples from your own experience to illustrate her idea. Examples might highlight a focus on Christ or a focus on crisis.