



“Comfort One Another”

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2

Corinthians 1:3-4

Getting on the Same Page

At some point in our lives, all of us go through something that is bigger than our ability to handle it alone. This could be a health scare, job termination, relationship failure, or loss of a loved one. In these moments, we need to be comforted.

Paul knew the Corinthians needed comfort. He wrote the letter of 2nd Corinthians, primarily to offer comfort to this church in Corinth. In this letter, Paul deals with the issue of suffering. He says that God doesn't always keep us from trouble. Instead, God often prefers to bring us comfort in our troubles.

But Paul doesn't stop there. He tells us that we are supposed to offer others comfort with the comfort God has first given to us. Christians are supposed to comfort one another. The word 'comfort' is a rich New Testament word. It means, "To soothe and strengthen." We are supposed to soothe and strengthen people who are hurting.

But how do we do this? What does this look like? Look no further than the Gospel. Paul says that his personal suffering was preparing him to offer comfort to the Corinthians. In verse 9, he says that it was also making him more dependent on God who ‘raises the dead.’

Jesus came to earth, lived for us and died for us. Then God raised him from the dead. In first Corinthians 15, Paul calls Jesus the firstfruits of the resurrection. This means that, because God raised Jesus from the dead, if we are in Christ, we can know that God will raise us from the dead. This is the comfort we are to offer others who are suffering: *God is with you right here and now. He is taking your pain and brokenness and turning it into something beautiful, right here and now. And God won't leave you in your pain. In Jesus, he has secured an eternal future for you; one without suffering.*

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Discuss a time in your life when you received comfort from God.
- Discuss a time in your life when you comforted someone who was hurting.

Study 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

- Observations? Questions? What was most interesting to you?
- Respond: We have an enemy that wants us to believe God doesn't really care about us.
- Respond: God often comforts us through others.
- Respond: God gives us all the comfort we need for all the troubles we face. The more trouble we face, the more comfort God gives.
- Does God give us more than we can handle? Why or why not?

Apply

- Gospel comfort demands that we come alongside one another...that we are close in proximity...and that we offer soothing and strength. In your group/family, practice offering comfort to one another. Use the following truths: *God is with you in your pain, he won't waste your pain, and he won't leave you in your pain.*