

Women's Thursday Bible Class

God's Distinctive Calling for Women 2022

Lesson 12- Comforting the Comfortless (John 14:18, bereaved orphan)

Brief review

Overview of this chapter's gleanings

1. There is a clear connection between suffering and comfort.
2. There are different English words (previously we looked at encouragement,)that for us have different nuances for the same Greek word . [paraklesis, parakaleo...]
3. The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promises, is the Comforter, the Helper - same Greek root. John 14:16,26; 15:26 and 16:7

Q. #1 of Heidelberg Catechism - What is my only comfort in life and I death?

Read answer.

I. What is the message we (church) communicate?

To the Scriptures: II Cor.1:1-11 (II Cor. 7:5-7) and Psalms 119:49-56

Praise and pain are not normal go together in our thinking.

How do we communicate a message of comfort?

Caring enough to be there communicates loving involvement in another's pain.

Not just silence. Relational commitment.

- Let's read II Cor. 1:1-11 (comment on letter of II Cor.)-Paul on the purpose of pain. Call to praise seems incongruous, yet.....
- Then thoughts from Ps. 119:49-56 - to build hope in suffering

REMEMBERING

II. What is the atmosphere we are creating in our churches? Sadly often, not what it should be. How can we create one of comfort?

Yet, what is one common thread that connects us all, believer and unbeliever?

Ex. - tattoo interview

III. Do we need help in developing (comforting) skills? Yes, so how can we intentionally and prayerfully do so?

Study

Speak (Do)- helpful interviews on p. 194-196

- what ministers help
- What hinders and hurts

Stick (Stay)

Read comments at the end of her chapter.

Break for Discussion.

Next week:

To reinforce the Scriptures, another Lam. 3:21 ff

This week come alongside someone God puts on your heart, as you pray. Visit, take a meal, make a call....

Topic next week I believe will be "Discernment - learning to choose what is best" . We will wait till last lesson to do the final chapter of Mrs. Hunt's Spiritual Mothering.

Lesson Twelve Discussion Questions

1. How well do we love and care for one another in the area of comforting? How well have you felt cared for?
2. In class, it was suggested that a common point we share with ALL people is the connection we ALL have with suffering, affliction, pain..... How can this be a link to opening up opportunities for evangelism? Discipleship, mentoring?
3. Share an instance where you have been comforted in this manner. Or share an instance where you have been enabled to come alongside another to help, console, aid, urge, etc.
4. Mrs. Hunt gives 3 imperatives to help us develop better comforting skills. **Study, Speak and Stick (Stay)**. Under **Speak**, she gives specific words or actions from her own interviews that women have told her that either comforted them in times of trouble , or conversely did NOT . Read over some for starters on p. 194-196 if your group needs, but what has been your experience with helpful and hurtful things?
5. Our true comfort comes from God and His Word. And that is always where we want to point others. From your perspective of your own times of suffering, have you learned to find your comfort in God? Have you been equipped to help comfort others by what you have learned about the sufficiency of God?