

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ Can you recall a time when someone's actions or words made your pain or suffering worse? Can you recall a time when someone's words or actions were "just what the Doctor ordered" in helping you? What's the most impressive comfort you've seen someone give another person?
- ❖ Which of the ways Jesus cared for the hurting do you find most meaningful? Which do you wish you were better at doing for others?
- ❖ Look again at Galatians 6:2. What are some practical ways that we can put this into practice with hurting people? Are there special concerns to be avoided in trying to put this verse into action? How have you been involved in doing the truth of this verse for others? How could this be a possible area of ministry for your group?
- ❖ Are there any new ideas about helping lift the loads of others you gained from this message? Are there any new questions it raises for you?
- ❖ Look over the story of Lazarus' being raised from death in John 11. If you could raise one person from the dead, who would it be? Why? What surprises you about Jesus' responses in this story? What gives you the most comfort and hope about the future from Jesus words in verses 23-27?
- ❖ What's the main "take-away" so far from this "pain" series for you? What attitude or choices touched on do you want to most remember for the future?

Bible Versions used: **KJV**-King James; **NKJV**-New King James; **NIV**-New International; **NCV**-New Century; **TLB**-Living Bible; **NLT**-New Living Translation; **Msg**-The Message; **GW**-God's Word; **TEV**-Today's English; **CEV**-Contemporary English; **NAS** - New American Standard; **NJB**-New Jerusalem Bible; **HCSB**-Holman Christian Standard; **Phi**-Phillips Translation; **Amp**-Amplified Bible; **NRSV**-New Revised Standard

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Tears

WHERE IS GOD WHEN IT HURTS?



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Helping the Hurting

Being careful in our care

Job 2:12-13 (NLT) *When they saw Job from a distance, they scarcely recognized him. Wailing loudly, they tore their robes and threw dust into the air over their heads to demonstrate their grief. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. And no one said a word, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words.*

☛ To _____, not _____.

Job 16:2-6 (NLT) *"I have heard all this before. What miserable comforters you are! Won't you ever stop your flow of foolish words? ...I could say the same things if you were in my place. I could spout off my criticisms against you and shake my head at you. But that's not what I would do. I would speak in a way that helps you. I would try to take away your grief."*

Luke 11:46 (NIV) *"Woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them."*

☛ To _____!

Job 42:7 (TEV) *After the Lord had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you did not speak the truth about me, the way my servant Job did."*

☛ To _____.

John 9:1-4 (MSG) *Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?" Jesus said, "You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me..."*

The Master at work

1. Provide the _____.

2. Offer the _____.

Matthew 11:2-7,11 (NIV) When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John... "I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist."

3. Give the _____.

Romans 12:15 (NIV) Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Galatians 6:2 (NIV) Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

4. Express the _____.

Proverbs 27:9 (AMP) Oil and perfume rejoice the heart; so does the sweetness of a friend's counsel that comes from the heart.

5. Help them _____.

☛ Stay on _____.

Mark 5:36 (NAS) But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe."

☛ Remember: _____!

Psalms 46:1-2 (ESV) God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.

☛ Offer _____.

John 11:1-44 (NIV) Raising Lazarus from death

¹ Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha...³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." ...⁵ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. ⁷ Then he said to his disciples, ... "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." ¹² His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days...

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God..."

²⁸ ... She went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ...³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her... ³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ...³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb...

³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, ... "he has been there four days." ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."