

## LifeGroup Questions

Based On: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

April 3, 2016

### Overview:

C.S. Lewis once wrote in *A Grief Observed*: “Talk to me about the truth of religion and I'll listen gladly. Talk to me about the duty of religion and I'll listen submissively. But don't come talking to me about the consolations (comfort) of religion or I shall suspect that you don't understand.” How often have those words been said: “You don't understand!” Everyone has a different way of dealing with a trial. What one person finds comforting another might find offensive. People can go through the exact same loss, disappointment, tragedy, and seek comfort in completely different ways.

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 the Apostle Paul tells us that God is a God of comfort. The word comfort in this passage literally means “to call to one's side.” Paul is saying that God will come to your side and console you during your time of suffering. What exactly does that mean when you experience the death of a loved one, loss of a job, divorce, or some other trial of life? Sometimes in the middle of pain we might be more likely to question the presence or existence of God rather than to seek His comfort.

How do you feel God's comfort? It might be through the reading of His word. It might be through the company of other believers. It might be through just being alone or going on a walk. God's comfort looks and feels differently for everyone. Having people around during a trial might be great for some while at the same time drive someone else crazy. No matter how you feel comfort it is important to seek God's comfort. Allowing His love to wash over your pain will enable you to help others during their time of affliction.

How can you be a comfort to others? Sometimes just being present is enough. Knowing when to speak up is just as vital as knowing when to keep quiet. If someone says: “You don't understand” just realize that you cannot fully understand someone else's pain. Being available to pray or just listen are just a few examples of showing comfort to others.

### Bible Study: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

1. Discuss as a group what it means to feel God's comfort.
2. What is the best way for you to feel comfort when going through a trial?
3. Describe a time when you were able to comfort someone else based on your own past experiences.
4. How does experiencing suffering better help you understand the suffering of others?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. What is the relationship between suffering and comfort?
6. Read Revelation 21:3-4. How does knowing that God will put an end to all suffering help you through your current trials?
7. Why is it important to grow in patience while experiencing suffering?