

LESSON #5

Expressing Concern

INTRO:

- The Book of Job offers incredible insights on expressing concern and highlights the importance of being patient and praising God despite our circumstances.
- Job's story is a profound reminder that God _____ knows and loves each one of us, and that His _____ cannot be thwarted.

CORE PRINCIPLE - _____ is our Comforter.

- The LORD gives and takes away. Job 1:21
- God is always worthy of our praise.
 - In times of plenty
 - In times of want
- Job clung to the _____ that God is Who He says He is.
- The story of Job demonstrates the blessings that flow when we _____ in God and are _____.
- God promises to _____ the cry of the afflicted. Job 34:28
- God is our omnipresent help in times of trouble. Ps. 46:1
- God uses people to comfort, but _____ is the ultimate Comforter. 2 Cor. 1:3-5
- Our journeys are all quite different. Rarely do we know the _____ of people's stories.
- Our focus should be to _____ and _____ each other up. I Thess. 5:14, Col. 1:28

CARE CONSIDERATIONS

- _____, not Empathy
 - The expression of _____ and feeling _____
 - Empathy is frequently associated with the cliché, "Walking a mile in someone else's shoes."
 - Has the intent of gaining insight
 - Natural human tendency is to try to:
 - Fix it. Prov. 3:5
 - Make things better.
 - When we think we must understand to care:
 - It becomes an _____ to delay caring until we feel prepared.
 - Our focus is more on the _____ than the person.
 - We tend to _____ the conversation instead of joining their conversation.
 - It's easy to abdicate responsibility to pastors and trained people.
 - Sympathy in the Bible. Rom. 12:15, I Pet. 3:8
- Don't jump to _____.
 - Be careful not to assume that people have created their troubles or that suffering is a consequence of past choices. Jn. 9:2-3

- Scripture tells us to speak the truth in _____:
 - _____ truth
 - Not what we conclude to be true about people's situations
 - Caring is about:
 - Being compassionate
 - Sharing hope
 - Not passing judgment
 - Not lording over people's lives
- Console the _____ and _____.
 - Express sympathy and show _____
 - Demonstrate _____
 - Bring _____ into the conversation
 - Offer spiritual support and _____ (Nahum 1:7, James 4:8)
 - _____ and _____ with them
 - Follow-up and _____ in touch
- Credentials
 - Man's/Eliphaz's wisdom
 - His life's experience and general understanding of God
 - _____ wisdom 1 Cor. 1:25, Job 28:20-28, James 1:5

KEY POINTS

- Be _____ and _____.
 - Our _____ is often the best _____.
 - Don't jump to _____.
 - Don't offer _____.
 - It's not our responsibility to _____ the situation.
- Show _____.
 - We all need Jesus to be:
 - Our personal _____
 - Our _____
- _____ is irrelevant.
 - God wants people to seek the _____, not the _____. (Matthew 6:33-34)
- Be accepting of _____.