

Subject: The Danger of False Comfort: Lessons from Eliphaz's Speech – Pt 2

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue our journey through the book of Job, we encountered a sobering reminder that even well-meaning religious counsel can miss the heart of God when it lacks grace and true understanding. For a copy of the teaching notes and a number of discipleship materials, please go [\[HERE\]](#).

**Summary:** This sermon explored Eliphaz's speech to Job in chapters 4:12-5:7, revealing how theological truth without grace becomes spiritual condemnation. While Eliphaz claimed divine revelation and spoke accurately about God's sovereignty and human sinfulness, he wrongly assumed Job's suffering was punishment for unrepented sin. This sermon challenged us to examine whether our faith rests on works-based assumptions or grace-based truth, and whether we offer genuine comfort or false accusations to those who are suffering.

**Takeaways:**

1. Theological accuracy without compassion can wound rather than heal. Eliphaz was right that no one is righteous before God and that the unrepentant face judgment, but he was wrong to apply these truths to Job's situation. We must be careful not to use Scripture as a weapon against the hurting.
2. Our circumstances do not always reflect our spiritual standing. Eliphaz's false model assumed that because God is sovereign, Job's suffering must indicate hidden sin. This denies the reality of spiritual warfare and God's mysterious purposes that we cannot always understand.
3. Grace says "Trust the One who came down" while works say "Climb higher." Like the sermon illustration of the two ladders, we cannot earn our way to God through perfect living or suffering. Jesus reaches down to carry us home, and this same grace should characterize how we minister to others in their pain.

As we move forward in Job's story, may we learn to sit with the suffering, resist the urge to explain away their pain, and point them consistently to the grace that saves rather than the works that condemn.

In His Grace,

Pastor Jim



## **Job 4-5**

### **Eliphaz's Speech – Part 2**

#### **I. Introduction:**

#### **II. Job 4:12-16: The Revelation Given to Eliphaz**

- Take every thought, every dream, every vision, every word captive to the word of God.

#### **III. Job 4:17-21: God's Righteousness and Man's Unworthiness**

- What is Godly justice?
- Consider that broken person in your life...a spouse, family member, friend, boss, neighbor, etc...who needs more mercy and grace than that person you are looking at?!

#### **IV. Job 5:1-7: Mankind's DNA of Folly and Trouble**

- In considering the character of a fool, we can also 'see' the character of a righteous person.

Additional Scripture References: List of Scriptures of what God says about a fool.

#### **V. Closing: One Way to the Top of the Ladder**

Slide 2

## Eliphaz's Speech Job 4-5 – Part 2

### I. Introduction

1. Last time we covered the first two sections of Eliphaz's speech; a speech which presupposes and makes clear Job's guilt. This time we are looking to get down through sections 3-5 on our outline.

- i. Job 4:1-6: 'Physician, Heal Thyself';
- ii. Job 4:7-11: The Source of Job's Problems (according to Eliphaz)

Slide 4

- iii. **Job 4:12-16: Eliphaz's Vision**
- iv. **Job 4:17-21: God's Righteousness and Man's Unworthiness**

- v. **Job 5:1-7: Mankind's DNA of Folly and Trouble**

- vi. Job 5:8-16: Appeal to God's Justice

- vii. Job 5:17-26 The Lessons and Rewards of Suffering

Slide 6

### II. Job 4:12-16: The Revelation Given to Eliphaz

1. Scripture makes clear that God gives revelations and dreams, so a claim of having one serves to authenticate the authority of the dreams content. As in that day, determining if a dream or vision is from God requires we examine its alignment with Scripture as the measure of its authenticity. Even more specifically, no matter how real they may be to us, we mustn't elevate our personal spiritual experiences above Scripture. And we need to guard against the influence of others using this approach.

2. Last time we were able to point to several errors regarding Eliphaz's no-win false model of faith – no win, as by his logic, because of a false equivalency in stating God is sovereign (which He is), so Job's circumstances reflect his unrighteousness.

Slide 8

### III. Job 4:17-21: God's Righteousness and Man's Unworthiness

1. With Eliphaz's broad language in this section as an indictment of mankind generally, his speech is meant to impeach Job.
2. V17 seems nothing more than a veiled accusation of Job acting righteous when, truth be told, none is righteous and pure when compared with God – and that also includes the multitude of the heavenly host as only One is God. While theologically true that no man or woman is naturally righteous and pleasing to God, this truth does nothing to clear up Job's circumstances.
3. The balance of Eliphaz's dreams emphasize Job's unrepented sin as the source of Job's suffering. Looking in v19-21, we find yet another accusation; specifically that if Job stays his current course he will die outside of God. Again, while true that the unrepentant will be judged by God, this narrow picture is of a justice absent compassion and love. It does not reflect God's justice which offers forgiveness, and, therein, hope. These are the very things we are to charged to be sharing as Christ's ambassadors.
4. Not only are Eliphaz's questions completely unrelated to Job's circumstances, they do not give way to how Job may be restored to God NOR do they offer any clarity as to how Job wronged God (be reminded that in 1:8, God Himself said "there is none like [Job] on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil...")...they simply scream 'guilty, guilty, guilty'. Said through a lens having the benefit of the entire canon of Scripture... as one sinner to another, who needs more mercy and grace than the guilty? A good reminder as we engage with others.

Yes, God is above all and He is the standard by which all is measured. No, we do not measure up; not one of us. Yes, we are the problem and we can't be the solution to the problem. Yes, while Eliphaz and the boys are ignorant as to what is transpiring in the heavenlies, as we have witnessed in the opening chapters of Job, the enemy seeks kill, steal, and destroy any desiring to be God's. And we see that God is sovereign.

5. While the dream is done, Eliphaz is NOT...

#### IV. Job 5:1-7: Mankind's DNA of Folly and Trouble

1. Bam – Job, cry out to whom you may, but there is none higher than God. Don't be a fool, just repent. Don't let your anger and envy keep you from God's blessings. Note that V4 may be a backhanded slap regarding Job's lost family in an attempt to get Job to see his own folly OR it could be a veiled-to-us reference of living in God's law providing safety.
2. For just a moment let's consider some of what Scripture says about a fool; as we do, we also 'hear' what our victory looks like:

Slide 12

- A. A fool denies God (Psalm 14:1, 53:1);
- B. A fool despises wisdom and instruction (Prov 1:7, 23:9);
- C. A fool trusts himself (Prov 28:26);
- D. A fool refuses correction (Prov 12:15, 17:10)
- E. A fool speaks recklessly (Prov 10:18, Ecc 10:12-14);

Slide 14

- F. A fool is quick tempered (Prov 12:16, 14:16; Ecc 7:9);
- G. A fool mocks sin (Prov 14:9);
- H. A fool delights in evil and folly (Prov 10:23);
- I. A fool rejects righteous living (Prov 13:19);
- J. A fool is prideful (Prov 26:12);

Slide 16

- K. A fool rejects God's word (Mt 7:26-27);
- L. A fool lives for the moment while ignoring his/her eternal destiny (Luke 12:16-21); and
- M. As we read here in Job 5:5, the fool's life work is often enjoyed by others.

3. Finally, while Eliphaz will shortly give a full-throated defense of God, he closes out these verses reminding Job that his afflictions were not made from whole cloth (meaning they weren't fabricated), with the implication again being that Job has unrepentant sin.

Slide 18

#### V. Closing: One Way to the Top of the Ladder

1. A man dreamed he arrived at Heaven's gate and found two ladders leaning against a massive wall. One ladder had a sign reading, "Works-Based Salvation – Enter Here." The other read, "Grace Through Faith – Enter Here."

Curious, he watched people climbing the works ladder. Some had made it a few hundred feet up. Others had climbed for decades. A few were arguing about who had climbed higher. But no one was anywhere near the top—the ladder disappeared into the clouds.

Then he looked at the grace ladder. To his surprise, it only had three rungs. On the top rung stood Jesus. As people approached, He simply reached down, picked them up, and carried them over the wall.

The man asked, "Wait, that's it?"

Jesus smiled and said, "If you could climb your way here, I wouldn't have needed a cross."

The walkaway points of this story are (a) Works say, "*Climb higher.*" While grace says "*Trust the One who came down to carry you home.*"<sup>1</sup>

[Pray]

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<sup>1</sup> This story was provided via ChatGPT in response to the following prompt on June 15, 2026. 'Write a very short humorous sermon illustration highlighting the great chasm between a works-based faith and a grace-based faith.' It incorporates the following Scriptures, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, and Romans 4:4-5

## 5-Day Devotional Job 4-5 Pt. 2 Eliphaz's Speech

**Day 1: When Friends Misunderstand Our Pain      Reading: Job 4:1-11; Ro 8:1**

**Devotional:** Eliphaz arrived with good intentions but wrong conclusions. He assumed Job's suffering proved hidden sin, applying theology without compassion. How often do we do the same—diagnosing others' pain through our limited understanding? The truth is that suffering doesn't always signal divine punishment. Sometimes God allows trials we cannot comprehend. Paul reminds us there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

When you face unexplained hardship, resist the urge to accept false guilt. God sees your heart. He knows your faithfulness. Not every storm indicates you've wandered off course; sometimes God is simply deepening your roots. Trust His sovereignty even when others question your standing.

**Day 2: The Danger of Spiritual Presumption Reading: Job 4:12-21; 1 Cor 13:12**

**Devotional:** Eliphaz claimed a divine vision to validate his accusations against Job. Yet authentic revelation always aligns with God's character—full of grace and truth. We see "through a glass, darkly," Paul writes. Our understanding remains partial, our perspectives limited. Beware of using spiritual experiences to justify harsh judgments. Yes, God is holy and we are sinful, but the gospel doesn't end with condemnation—it culminates in redemption. Eliphaz spoke theological truth devoid of love, missing God's heart entirely.

When interpreting circumstances—yours or others'—hold your conclusions humbly. Seek wisdom that reflects both God's righteousness and His compassion. Truth without love wounds; love without truth misleads. Pursue both.

**Day 3: The Futility of Self-Righteousness      Reading: Job 5:1-7; Eph 2:8-9**

**Devotional:** Eliphaz essentially told Job to climb his way back to God's favor through repentance from unknown sins. This works-based approach misses the gospel entirely. We are born into trouble "as surely as sparks fly upward"—our human condition guarantees we cannot save ourselves. Paul declares salvation comes through grace by faith, not works, lest anyone boast. The ladder of human effort never reaches heaven's gate. Only Jesus bridges the chasm.

Stop exhausting yourself trying to earn what's freely offered. Stop measuring your worthiness by your performance. Christ descended to carry you home. Your acceptance

before God rests entirely on His finished work, not your incomplete efforts. Rest in grace today.

**Day 4: God's Justice Includes Mercy**

**Reading: Job 5:8-16; Ps 103:8-14**

**Devotional:** Eliphaz painted God as distant judge, emphasizing justice while ignoring mercy. But Scripture reveals a God who is "compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." He doesn't treat us as our sins deserve. Yes, God is sovereign and righteous, but His justice flows through the cross where mercy and truth meet.

When suffering, we need more than reminders of God's power—we need assurance of His presence. The Psalmist knew God removes our transgressions "as far as the east is from the west." He remembers we are dust and has compassion. Approach God confidently today, not because you're faultless, but because He is faithful. His justice made provision; His mercy makes you welcome.

**Day 5: The Blessing Hidden in Suffering**

**Reading: Job 5:17-27; Jam 1:2-4; Heb 12:5-11**

**Devotional:** Eliphaz concluded correctly that God's discipline brings blessing, yet wrongly assumed all suffering is corrective punishment. Scripture distinguishes between consequence, discipline, and refinement. James encourages us to consider trials as opportunities for perseverance to complete its work. Hebrews explains that God disciplines those He loves, producing righteousness.

Sometimes God allows pain not because we've sinned, but because He's shaping us. The furnace doesn't condemn the gold; it purifies it. Don't waste your suffering by only asking "Why?" Ask also, "What might God be developing in me?" Trust that He who began good work in you will complete it. Your present pain may be preparing you for future purpose. Hold fast.

## Small Group Study Guide

### Job 4-5 Pt. 2

### Eliphaz's Speech

**Opening Prayer:** Begin with prayer, asking God to give wisdom and discernment as you discuss His Word together, and for hearts open to receive truth with grace.

**Key Takeaways:** Query the group for takeaways first...you may stay with one or more of those.

1. Truth Without Love Wounds: Eliphaz spoke theological truths (God is sovereign, humans are sinful, fools reject wisdom) but applied them wrongly and without compassion
2. False Equivalencies Are Dangerous: Just because God is sovereign doesn't mean every hardship is divine punishment for personal sin
3. Grace Requires No Ladder Climbing: We cannot earn, achieve, or suffer our way into right standing with God
4. The Guilt Need Grace Most: As the sermon notes: "Who needs more grace than the guilty?"

**Discussion Questions:** Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. Eliphaz claims to have received a revelation from God (4:12-16). How can we discern whether a dream, vision, or "word from God" is authentic? (Consider 1 John 4:1, Acts 17:11, Deuteronomy 13:1-5)
2. Have you ever encountered someone who used "God told me..." to give advice that didn't align with Scripture? How did you respond?
3. What's the danger of elevating personal spiritual experiences above Scripture?
4. Eliphaz correctly states that no human is righteous compared to God (4:17). Why is this theological truth insufficient and even harmful in Job's situation?
5. How can we speak biblical truth while still showing compassion to those who are suffering? (Think of examples from Jesus' ministry)
6. Eliphaz presents God's justice without His love and mercy. Where have you seen this imbalance in modern Christian culture? In your own thinking?

7. Review the list of characteristics of a fool from Scripture (pages 2-3 of the sermon). Which of these do you find most convicting personally?
8. Eliphaz essentially calls Job a fool who needs to repent. When is confrontation appropriate, and when does it become presumptuous judgment? (Consider Matthew 7:1-5, Galatians 6:1-2)
9. Eliphaz says "man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward" (5:7). How is this different from saying specific suffering is always due to specific sin?
10. Discuss the closing illustration about the two ladders. How does our culture (including Christian culture) subtly promote a "works-based" ladder?
11. In what areas of your life are you tempted to "climb higher" rather than trust Jesus to carry you?
12. How does understanding grace-based salvation change the way we counsel suffering friends?

**Practical Applications:** Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. Practice Compassionate Listening: If someone shares a struggle this week, resist the urge to immediately explain, fix, or theologize. Simply listen and empathize first.
2. Examine Your Ladder: Journal about areas where you're trying to earn God's favor through performance, good works, or spiritual disciplines. Confess this to God and thank Him for the grace that carries you.
3. Speak Truth in Love: If you need to have a difficult conversation with someone, prepare by asking: "What does this person most need to hear about God's character right now—His holiness or His compassion?"
4. Memorize Grace: Commit Ephesians 2:8-9 or Titus 3:5 to memory this week as a reminder of grace-based salvation.

**Closing Prayer Points:**

- He is both just AND merciful
- He doesn't require us to climb to Him—He came down to us
- His grace is sufficient for our deepest failures and darkest sufferings
- He gives us discernment to speak truth wrapped in love

## **Discussion Questions**

### **Job 4-5 Pt. 2**

### **Eliphaz's Speech**

1. How do we discern whether dreams or visions claiming divine origin are truly from God, and what role does Scripture play in authenticating such experiences?
2. In what ways might well-meaning friends, like Eliphaz, cause harm by assuming someone's suffering is directly tied to their sin?
3. How does Eliphaz's vision of God's righteousness and human unworthiness, while theologically accurate, fail to provide comfort or truth in Job's specific situation?
4. How can we avoid becoming like Eliphaz by making false equivalencies between God's sovereignty and someone's immediate circumstances?
5. Considering the biblical characteristics of a fool listed in the sermon, how might pride prevent us from receiving correction even when we are walking faithfully with God?
6. What does the ladder illustration reveal about our natural tendency to trust in our own efforts rather than God's grace?
7. How does the backdrop of the spiritual battle in Job's story change our understanding of suffering that seems random or undeserved?
8. In what ways do we sometimes act as Job's friends by offering theological truth that, while correct in general, misses the specific reality of someone's situation?
9. How does grace-based faith fundamentally differ from works-based faith in addressing our guilt and need for restoration to God?

# **Dinner Conversation Starters**

## **Job 4-5 Pt. 2**

### **Eliphaz's Speech**

#### **1. When Friends Get It Wrong**

Eliphaz assumed Job must have sinned because he was suffering. How do you feel when someone wrongly assumes why you're going through something hard? Have you ever misjudged someone else's suffering? What did you learn from it? What's a better way to respond to a friend who's hurting but you don't know why?

#### **2. Dreams, Visions, and God's Voice**

Eliphaz used a "vision" to support what he already believed. How can we tell if something we think or feel about God actually lines up with Scripture? Why is it dangerous to use "God told me" to back up our opinions about others? How can the Bible help correct wrong ideas we've picked up about God?

#### **3. Fools, Wisdom, and Listening**

The sermon listed many traits of a fool from Proverbs. Which "fool" trait do you personally find most tempting (quick-tempered, prideful, trusting yourself, refusing correction, etc.)? What does a wise response to correction look like in our home? How can we help each other grow in wisdom without constantly criticizing?

#### **4. Suffering, Sin, and God's Heart**

Eliphaz assumed suffering always meant Job had unrepentant sin. Why is it too simple (and often wrong) to say, "You're suffering, so you must have sinned"? How does the cross show that God's justice is never without love and compassion? When we're suffering, what truths about God do we most need to remember?

#### **5. Two Ladders: Works or Grace?**

The illustration contrasted a works-based ladder with Jesus lifting us by grace. In your everyday life, where are you tempted to "climb the works ladder" to make God love you more? What does it practically look like to "trust the One who came down to carry you home"? How would our family's atmosphere change if we really believed we are accepted by grace, not performance?

# Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

## Job 4-5 Pt. 2

### Eliphaz's Speech

#### AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **When Friends Assume the Worst**: Teach kids not to jump to conclusions about why someone is sad or in trouble.

#### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. "If you saw someone crying at school, what could be some different reasons they might be sad?"
  - b. "What is one kind thing you could say instead of joining others who are making fun?"
  - c. "How can we ask God to help us be kind even when we don't understand what's going on?"
2. **Choosing Wisdom, Not "Foolish" Reactions**: Help kids notice when they are acting like the "fool" in Proverbs—quick-tempered, refusing correction, or speaking recklessly.

#### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. "What would a 'fool' do in that moment? What would a 'wise' kid do?"
  - b. "If you could redo that moment, what would you say or do differently?"
  - c. "How can we remember to stop, breathe, and talk kindly, even when we're really upset?"
3. **Grace, Not Earning Love**: Show kids that God (and parents) love them even when they mess up—not only when they "climb the ladder" and do everything right.

#### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. "Do we love you more when you do everything right and less when you mess up?"
- b. "How is God's love like a strong rope that doesn't break, even when we make mistakes?"
- c. "What's one thing you'd like to remember the next time you feel like you're 'not good enough'?"

#### AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Misjudging Friends in Social Groups**: Challenge kids not to be like Eliphaz—assuming suffering equals secret sin or failure.

Discussion Questions:

- a. "In what ways were Job's friends unfair in how they judged him?"
- b. "What are some better responses than gossip when a friend pulls away or seems different?"
- c. "How can you show support to that friend without demanding to know all the details?"

2. **Foolish Posts vs. Wise Responses (Early Digital Spaces):** Teach kids that online comments, group chats, and texts reveal whether we're acting like fools or wise people.

Discussion Questions:

- a. "Which 'fool' traits might show up in that chat? (mocking, pride, speaking recklessly, etc.)"
- b. "What would a wise person do—join in, stay silent, or say something different?"
- c. "What's one sentence you could use to gently stop hurtful joking without attacking your friends?"

3. **Grace vs. Performance in School and Activities:** Help kids see the difference between "climbing the works ladder" (trying to earn worth) and resting in God's grace.

Discussion Questions:

- "When you don't do well, do you feel like God likes you less? Why or why not?"  
"How does the 'grace ladder' illustration help you remember God's love isn't based on your performance?"  
"How could believing God already loves you freely change the way you try, practice, and study?"

**AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS**

1. **Reading People's Suffering in Friend Groups:** Encourage teens not to interpret every hardship as punishment or "karma" for something someone did wrong.

Discussion Questions:

- "How were Eliphaz's assumptions about Job similar to how people explain others' problems today?"  
"Why is saying 'They must have done something' both spiritually and emotionally damaging?"  
"What would it look like for you to show up as a compassionate friend instead of a 'mini-judge'?"

2. **Digital "Foolishness" vs. Online Wisdom:** Apply the list of "fool" traits to social media, texting, and online gaming interactions.

Discussion Questions:

- a. “Which Proverbs ‘fool’ traits show up most often in your online spaces—mocking, reckless words, pride, refusing correction?”
  - b. “What are specific ways you can be wise online—what you post, what you like, what you share, and when you stay out of a fight?”
  - c. “Have you ever regretted something you posted or texted? What did you learn about the power of words?”
3. Grace, Identity, and Performance Pressure: Connect the “two ladders” illustration to pressure in academics, sports, appearance, and social acceptance.

Discussion Questions:

- a. “Where do you feel the strongest pull to ‘climb the works ladder’—grades, looks, likes, sports, or something else?”
- b. “How does believing you’re already fully accepted in Christ change your response when you don’t measure up to others’ standards?”
- c. “What are some practical ‘grace habits’ you could adopt—like limits on comparison scrolling, praying before posting, or reminding yourself of Scripture about your identity?”

**Tips for Parents**

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it’s okay to ask questions, even if things don’t make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

# Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z

## Job 4-5 Pt. 2

### Eliphaz's Speech

#### 1. Don't Be an Eliphaz in Your Friend Group

*Bible Reference:* Job 4:7–8; John 9:1–3

*Application:* Reject the “if you're suffering, you must deserve it” mindset. Not all pain is punishment. Like Jesus with the blind man, choose compassion over conclusions.

*Scenario:* Someone in your group suddenly pulls back from church/youth group and looks rough online—sad posts, vague captions, maybe some questionable pics. Group chat starts saying, “They're probably off the rails” or “They must have done something.”

*Discussion:* When a friend's life starts falling apart, how can you show up like Jesus in John 9 (compassionate and careful) instead of like Eliphaz in Job 4 (confident and condemning)?

#### 2. Testing “Spiritual Takes” by Scripture

*Bible Reference:* Job 4:12–16; 1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11

*Application:* Following Jesus will cost you something: comfort, popularity, sometimes relationships. Choosing purity, honesty, and Christlike love means sometimes saying “no” to what everyone else says “yes” to.

*Scenario:* You're talking to someone you like. They begin asking for nudes or pushing sexual jokes and comments in DMs. They say, “If you really liked me, you'd trust me,” and add that “everyone does it” and “it's private.”

*Discussion:*

- a. How does “taking up your cross” apply when you're pressured to go against God's standards in a relationship?
- b. What boundaries would honor God with your body and your digital behavior (pics, messages, flirting)?
- c. If you lost this relationship because you honored Jesus, would it be worth it in light of eternity? Why?

### 3. No Flattery, No Fake Persona

*Bible Reference:* 1 Thessalonians 2:5 – “For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness...”

Ephesians 4:25 – “Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor...’”

*Application:* Don’t present a fake self to gain followers or acceptance. No “flattery” means you’re not manipulating people with your words or persona—online or offline. Your content, comments, and conversations should reflect honesty and integrity.

*Scenario:* On Instagram, TikTok, or Snapchat, you’re tempted to post thirst traps, exaggerate your lifestyle, or craft a persona that isn’t really you, just to grow your account or impress a certain group.

*Discussion:*

- a. In what ways can social media tempt you to “use flattering words” or a “cloak” to get attention?
- b. How can you tell if your online self is becoming more about image than about truth?
- c. What would it look like for your digital presence to match who you actually are in Christ?

### 4. Being the Church Not Just Doing Church

*Bible Reference:* 1 Thessalonians 2:7–8 – “...we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children... we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives...”

John 13:35 – “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

*Application:* You’re not called just to attend church; you’re called to “be the church” in your friend groups, teams, and online spaces—showing real love, gentleness, and sacrifice.

*Scenario:* At school or on your team, there’s that one person everyone sees as “weird” or “annoying.” They’re always alone at lunch and rarely invited into group hangouts or Discord calls. Being seen with them might cost you social capital.

*Discussion:*

- a. How could you “impart your own life” (time, attention, friendship) to someone who is usually excluded?

- b. What is one specific action—this week—that would reflect Christ’s love to that person?
- c. How might your friend group or youth group culture change if everyone decided to “be the church” instead of just blending in?

**These points aim to empower Gen Z to live out their faith genuinely and courageously in various aspects of their daily lives, reflecting Biblical integrity, compassion, and steadfastness.**