

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Helping at Home - "The Power of Comfort"

With Rev. Kimberly Sabourin
Regional Director of Safe Families Canada, Ottawa
February 19, 2023

- **When God saved you by His grace, He had others in mind.**
- **None of us knows what is on the other side of our yes.**
- **Biblical obedience is LOVE + TRUST + ACTION.**

What is Safe Families Canada? Safe Families Canada is a movement of volunteers, from across our great nation, that extend family-like support by hosting vulnerable children and strengthening their families in crisis. Volunteers come from local churches and motivated by obedience to Christ and compassion toward the stranger.

Isaiah 60:1-3 (ESV) "Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you."

Mark 9:36-37 (NIV) "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me."

Isaiah 66:13 (ESV) "As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you."



The Hebrew definition of comfort is so incredible. (Nechama)

- 1) It is compassion, a warm tender approach in manner.
- 2) Comfort is also the power to change a heart.
- 3) To change a mind.
- 4) To give a renewed purpose.
- 5) To influence someone's conduct.
- 6) It also can mean to strengthen greatly.

James 1:27 (ESV) "Religion that is pure and faultless before God is to look after the orphans and widows and keep oneself unstained from the world."

- **There is a cost to offering comfort to the vulnerable.**
- **To offer Biblical Hospitality is to love the stranger.**

Big Idea: Although you have no idea what is on the other side of your "yes", YOU have a role to play in the lives of the vulnerable in our city. It is because of God's great mercy that we can extend mercy.

- **May the church in Ottawa arise and show our city the power of comfort.**

Action Steps:

- **Email** Safe Families Canada, Ottawa at ottawa@safefamilies.ca
- **Attend** our Information Session on Monday, March 20, 2023 at Lifecentre Church, 2214 Innes Road
- **Join** our PLAY DAY on September 23, 2023 (more information to come!)
- **Volunteer** at our Race for Families on May 20, 2023 (sign up at the table today or email Safe Families at ottawa@safefamilies.ca)



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Helping at Home - "The Power of Comfort"
#2 of 4 - February 19, 2023

- 1) Last week we talked about Helping the Hurting and the importance of leaning into justice issues with the love and strength of Jesus. What did you hear or sense God saying to you this week about the importance of staying focused on Jesus as you journey through life? What action steps did you take to prioritize this?
- 2) In what ways have you experienced or seen hurt within the family? Keep this in mind as you approach Scripture asking God to speak to you.
- 3) Read Isaiah 60:1-3, Mark 9:36-37, Isaiah 66:13, and James 1:27. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What do we learn about God's heart for the vulnerable in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about these passages?
- 5) **Meaning:** What do these passages mean for the original recipients? What do they mean for us as we seek to be disciples of Christ?
- 6) What will it cost you to comfort the vulnerable?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What specific action step is God asking you & your IC to take in light of this teaching?
- 8) What is your "yes" towards bringing comfort to the vulnerable? How is God asking you to engage in supporting families today?



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Helping at Home - "The Power of Comfort"
#2 of 4 - February 19, 2023

- 1) Last week we talked about Helping the Hurting and the importance of leaning into justice issues with the love and strength of Jesus. What did you hear or sense God saying to you this week about the importance of staying focused on Jesus as you journey through life? What action steps did you take to prioritize this?
- 2) In what ways have you experienced or seen hurt within the family? Keep this in mind as you approach Scripture asking God to speak to you.
- 3) Read Isaiah 60:1-3, Mark 9:36-37, Isaiah 66:13, and James 1:27. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What do we learn about God's heart for the vulnerable in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about these passages?
- 5) **Meaning:** What do these passages mean for the original recipients? What do they mean for us as we seek to be disciples of Christ?
- 6) What will it cost you to comfort the vulnerable?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What specific action step is God asking you & your IC to take in light of this teaching?
- 8) What is your "yes" towards bringing comfort to the vulnerable? How is God asking you to engage in supporting families today?