

HELPING THE HURTING WITH HOPE

LESSON 5: How Are You Going to Help Me?

OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

It is a blessing when God gives us opportunities to show his love and share his words of truth and hope with the hurting. Here's a recap of what we've learned so far:

- Who the hurting are? They are just like us; sinners who need God's forgiving love in their lives.
- What are the hurting like? They are sheep Jesus wants close to himself; we take time to ask them questions to know them.
- Why we want to help them? When we help them, we are helping those who need Jesus their Savior, who wants them to be close to him.

In our lesson today, we will lay down plans for how we will help. Then we'll be able to answer the question: "How are you going to help me?"

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1.) In order to answer someone who asks, "How are you going to help me?" let's look at Scripture to note God's guidance in how we will want to help. Finish the sentence after each passage.

Philippians 2:3-7 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

- I will help the hurting by _____.

John 13:12-17 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

- I will help the hurting by _____.

2.) How we help someone is going to be a fruit of our faith. Christians bear the fruit of looking and acting like Christians. From Paul’s list describing the fruit of the Spirit, what will each of these look like when we bear this fruit?

Galatians 5:22-23 the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Fruit of the Spirit	Example of what it might look like when practiced by our congregation
Love (agape)	
Joy	
Peace	
Patience / Forbearance	
Kindness	
Goodness	
Faithfulness	
Gentleness	
Self-Control	

3.) Our new person the Holy Spirit created in us wants to serve God and serve others. Our new person delights in helping those who are hurting because it means we are serving someone in need and bringing loving service to our Savior. Read the following passages that connect us with helping the hurting with hope. We'll look for common ideas and conclusions that can be drawn.

1 John 2:3-6 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. ⁴The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Ephesians 5:1-2 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

a.) What common ideas are in these passages?

b.) What conclusions can you draw from these passages when it comes to helping the hurting?

4.) Helping brings blessings to others and to us. Based on the Luke 14 passage section below, name at least two blessings the hurting and the ones helping each receive.

Luke 14:13-14 "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

BRINGING IT HOME – SWOT Analysis

How is our congregation helping the hurting?	
STRENGTHS <i>What is our church doing or good at doing when it comes to helping the hurting?</i>	WEAKNESSES <i>Where do you think there is a need for improvement for us in helping the hurting?</i>
OPPORTUNITIES <i>Opportunities are outside our church. We don't have it right now. What could we pursue to achieve our goal?</i>	THREATS <i>Threats arise from outside and are uncontrollable. They prevent us from achieving our goal.</i>

LIVING OUR FAITH

It starts with one person. One person leads by example and more will follow. Shine with a helping spirit to those who come to us hurting. Do not wait for them to ask for help but immediately put faith and love into practice that leaves no doubt that you will and then get others to come along. How can we make these ideas reality? What will helping the hurting look like at our congregation? We will help the hurting by...

CLOSING PRAYER