

Sermon Questions

May 18, 2025 | Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 (*Grace Abounds For Us*)

Pre-study: 3 things from the sermon. *Note down 3 ideas, illustrations, quotes, or points that made an impression in the sermon.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Core Questions

1. Which parts of our experience through affliction, according to the passage, are most precious in providing comfort to others facing affliction?
2. A distant God provides abstract comfort. How are things different because of Jesus?
3. Pastor Ryan identified the dangers of minimizing our affliction or letting it dominate our life. How do the revelation, suffering, and resurrection of Jesus play into the comfort we take and offer one another in suffering?

Inward Grace in Action

4. Suffering and affliction can seem meaningless and even vindictive in a world with a personal, powerful God. Share stories of how God has used, redeemed, or lessened some of the pain of suffering as it has given you the capacity to comfort and love others.

Outward Grace in Action

5. Everyone has to live with a story or concept that make sense of suffering.
 - a. Which, outside of the truth in Christ, do you come across most?
 - b. How could you comfort someone living with an inadequate account of suffering with the comfort you have received from God?

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Reflect on these

Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Psalms 133

Ezekiel 34:11-24

John 13:1-17

Galatians 6:1-10

1 Peter 4:7-11

Serve:

Encourage someone in your life to ask for help from [a Stephen Minister](#).

Pray:

Pray for the huge number of image-bearers of God facing loneliness to find comfort and joy in true community in the body of Christ.

But remember, comfort isn't necessarily comfortable. Finding comfort doesn't always mean we are released from suffering. Instead, it means we are not alone in our personal misery or pain; we have company when we hurt. That's what a "comforter" is in the New Testament: someone called alongside us to sustain us in calamity. As Christians, the best we can give each other in times of affliction is what we ourselves have received — comfort from the comforter in chief, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Harold Senkbeil, *Christ and Calamity: Grace and Gratitude in the Darkest Valley*