

Give Thanks: Week 1-Gratitude in Caring

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you said “thank you” to the person who disciplined you?

WORD

We believers will face a tremendous amount of suffering in our lives, and so we must lift up each other through our prayers. Everyone of us faces adversity in life, so we will need the support of our brothers and sisters as we walk through these challenges.

2 Corinthians 1:3-11 (NIV)

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. 6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 10 He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, 11 as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

The author is talking about their trouble experience in the province of Asia in Verse 8-11. The great pressure they are undergoing is far beyond their ability to endure. They felt losing their hope in life.

They felt they had received the sentence of death. And then he said this, *“But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.”*

Paul started his letter by saying, “praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,” In other version it used the word, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,” (NKJV) Is Praise and Blessed the same? If they’re not the same what is the difference?

Meaning, Paul style in the epistle generally moves from statements to obligations, expressing the reality first and then the believer’s necessary response. In other words, Paul begging with a statements and moving to obligation response. One man may say..Blessed be the God.. and the audience may answer Praise be to the God....

DISCUSSION

Share a time in your life where you have struggle that you may say “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

WORD

One thing that really obvious here in this epistle of Paul is the word, “comfort”. It mention 9 times in 5 verses. The word, “Comfort” in Greek Word *paráklētos* meaning *“to come alongside and help.”*

God is our paraklesis - Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Jesus is our paraklesis - Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

The Holy Spirit is our paraklesis - John 14:16 (NIV)

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—”

Paraklesis means to come alongside and help.

Watch this, the Greek Word “**parakletos**” - **means “Advocate.”** Jesus not only with us and help us but also intercede for us. The Holy Spirit is not only with us but He is our advocate as well.

Comfort primarily means - to come alongside to give aid in time of troubles and needs. So it literary say in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is God compassion, merciful and the source of all comfort.

If God is the God of all comfort, paraklesis

Three things to be thankful even in times of tribulations.

1. **Jesus is reliable.** *9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.*
2. **Jesus will deliver us.** *10 He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,*
3. **Jesus answer our prayers.** *11 as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.*

DISCUSSION

Share what stood out with you on this message this week?

LIFE APPLICATION

Let us thank God who is the God of comfort. Even in times of trial and tribulation, Jesus is reliable, He will deliver us and He answer prayers.

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

2 Corinthians 1:3 (NIV)

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

PRAYER

Share your prayer request and answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.



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