



SERMON NOTES



Week 1 (November 1): "Comforting Those Who Mourn"

"All Saints Day" is a time to remember what the Hebrews writer calls _____, (vs. 12:1), who directed and guided us and help us "run with perseverance" the race of Christian faith.

I. The Word of God

When grieving, you can turn to a treasury of God's truth.

- A. Jesus said, "I am the _____ and the life."
- B. Grief can feel like a heavy weight. When you need comfort, God says to _____ on Him.
- C. Jesus says, I go to prepare a _____.

II. The Spirit of God

- A. The Greek word for the Holy Spirit is "Paraclete," meaning one who is called to come _____.
- B. You can experience God's spirit by being part of a _____ of fellow Christians.
- C. When grieving, it's important to find spaces and time in a _____ or place of refuge and safety, where God's spirit can speak.

III. The People of God

- A. Dr. Kübler-Ross's work was groundbreaking because we began to understand that expressions of _____ are a very normal part of grieving.
- B. When comforting someone who is mourning, do not underestimate the power of _____.
- C. As you seek to comfort those who mourn, remember to continue to call the person because the most difficult grief may come long after the _____, when the person feels they have been forgotten.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

When someone dies, the journey of mourning ahead can be a difficult one. When you have experienced the death of a friend or loved one, who and what comforted you at that time? Together, we can learn and grow to be a community of people who are truly helpful to those who are hurting, by responding with God's presence and compassion.

Monday: Psalm 30:1-5

The Psalmist appears to have been suffering from a terrible illness (vs.2-3). Have you ever had an illness that truly tested your faith? The Psalmist's words of hope, however, echo through the ages, "weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."(NIV) The Psalmist declares that God spared him/her "from going down to the pit." What has brought comfort to you, and how might you bring reassurance and comfort to those who are ill?

Tuesday: Luke 4:16-21

When Jesus stands up in his hometown synagogue, he quotes Isaiah 61:1-3 to describe his mission. Israel was always called to be the light to the nations, and now as the servant-Messiah, Jesus brings a message of love and mercy. Today, we celebrate the freedom to elect our nation's leaders, but true freedom needs to be shaped by the spiritual freedom that Jesus brings. How can you partner with Jesus' mission to bring healing, freedom and his message of good news—especially today?

Wednesday: Isaiah 49:8-16

Israel faced utter desolation when the nation went into exile in Babylon. The destruction of the city of Jerusalem in 586 B.C., left the Israelites without hope—yet the prophet Isaiah spoke of a restoration for the captives and a new beginning. When the people insisted that God had abandoned them, the prophet said, "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast?...Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" Have you ever felt abandoned and alone? Who or what brought you comfort? How can our church community extend God's comfort to those who are feeling isolated and abandoned?

Thursday: John 15:9-12

The night before he was crucified, Jesus spoke these words to his disciples. Though he knew he was going to die the next day, Jesus spoke more and more about "love" and "joy," and called on his disciples in that moment and in the future, to have love for one another. To comfort someone in mourning, sometimes we need to be present with them in some dark places. Have you experienced a deeper joy when you seek to bring God's comfort and presence to someone in need? Who do you know who needs that comfort now?

Friday: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

In these five short verses, the word "comfort" appears nine times! Though we do not know the details, the Apostle Paul was suffering from a trying experience, and the church he founded in Corinth was in turmoil. Comfort here means more than sympathy, in means to enable courage. Often our most troubling experiences in life, are the ones that help others the most. For example, someone who has experienced cancer is often best equipped to help another with the illness. How have your life experiences equipped you to offer comfort to others?

MOVING FORWARD

The New Testament often describes the church as the "body of Christ," a powerful image to help us understand why giving and receiving comfort is so vital. I Corinthians 12:26 describes how "if one part suffers, every part suffers with it." How can your walk with God grow richer and deeper through your relationships in the church?

Prayer: Loving God, show me how my gifts can be used by you to make me an instrument of your peace and comfort.

Answers to the sermon notes: The great cloud of witnesses ; IA) Resurrection, B) lean, C) place for you; IIA) alongside, B) small group, C) sanctuary; IIIA) anger, B) silence, C) funeral