



# Small Group Study Guide

The  
*Caring  
Congregation*

*What to Say When You Don't Know What to Say*

November 1, 2020  
"Comforting Those Who  
Mourn"

## OPENING PRAYER

O God, we come to you with many deep cries of our hearts, and yet we know that you are faithful. We read in scripture that you will wipe away all our tears. In these strange days of "social distancing," we need a powerful sense of your presence more than ever. Help us to be your instrument of compassion and comfort.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

### 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (CEB)

<sup>3</sup> May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! He is the compassionate Father and God of all comfort. <sup>4</sup> He's the one who comforts us in all our trouble so that we can comfort other people who are in every kind of trouble. We offer the same comfort that we ourselves received from God.

### John 14:1-3 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup> "Don't be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has room to spare. If that weren't the case, would I have told you that I'm going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too.

## 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.

## QUESTIONS

- 1) When you have suffered a loss, what is the most meaningful ritual you have experienced?
- 2) If you feel comfortable sharing it, what was the most "unhelpful" comment you have received at a time of grief or struggle?
- 3) Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die." (John 11:25). Was there a time in your life when those words became real for you? Do you still wrestle with this truth? How do you think someone's life changes when they believe that Jesus is the resurrection?
- 4) Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 In these five short verses, the word "comfort" appears nine times! 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?
- 5) 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? Who can you reach out to comfort this week?

## FINAL APPLICATION

**Prayer:** Loving God, thank you for all the times you have strengthened me and given me courage. Help me to walk with you each day. Mold each of us, especially your people of Asbury church, to be the kind of people whose caring strengthens others. Amen.