

Art of Being Human Discussion Questions
01.21.18

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Share a story about a time when you found yourself in a situation that was beyond your ability to manage or control.
2. When you think of anxiety inducing situations what comes to mind?

Background

2 Corinthians is a letter that Paul wrote to a church he started in the city of Corinth and it was the second letter he wrote to them. As is typical of his letters Paul began this one with a couple lines to identify that he was the one writing the letter and then shifts into a section of praise for what God has done for him. The letter was written several years after Paul's initial visit to Corinth and possibly was written while he was in Macedonia. When Paul mentions his experiences in Asia the area he was in is what we know today as Turkey.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Questions

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. According to verses 3-5 why does God comfort us?
2. What does Paul say in verse 6 is produced when we are comforted?
3. How did Paul feel when they were experiencing the troubles in the province of Asia?
4. In verse 10 what does Paul say about where he has set his hope?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. Looking back over your life, when have you have experienced comfort from God? How can you use those experiences to offer comfort to those in need?
2. What does patient endurance look like when life is hard?
3. Does the fact that we have an abundance of comfort in Jesus mean we will not suffer? If not, then how do we handle the moments when life feels like it is too much to handle?
4. How do we set our hope in Jesus that he will continue to deliver us? How do you remind yourself that he has done it before and have hope he will do it again?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. God meets us in our troubles and brings us an abundance of comfort when we walk with him. How can we demonstrate that reality to those in our sphere of influence?
2. How do we approach the difficulties in life with patient endurance that is born out of knowing the we have an abundance of comfort in Jesus?
3. What do you think the impact would be if we followed Paul's lead and were more open about the times when life was so hard we thought we could not go on?

4. What routines or reminders can you put in place to help in those moments when life is overwhelming to point you back to Jesus and the abundant comfort he offers?

Closing

The reality is we all deal with anxiety on nearly a daily basis for some it is a debilitating, but for all of us it is something that detracts and distracts us from our walk with Jesus. As you finish your time together pray for one another. Focus your time on recognizing the ways God provides comfort in the suffering and how we can use those experiences to comfort others.

Reminder: To be human is to be in relationships with others, we are hard wired for it. So, why is it so challenging to be our true selves with others? Lean into our desire for relationships, first with Jesus and then with those around us.