



Part 2 | Help Others Who Are Experiencing Your Same Struggle

This week, we learned another way to live through a bad day by observing how Jesus handled His worst day. As He hung on the cross between two criminals after being brutally beaten and mocked, Jesus could have focused on His own problems. Instead, by using His experience with crucifixion to minister to the criminal who hung next to Him, Jesus taught us that we can take what we're going through and help others who are experiencing similar struggles. We are called to use our gifts and passions to serve others, and we minister best from the place we have struggled the most. Ministering to others shifts our focus from our own needs but also helps us see the solution to the problems we face. Helping others through their struggles puts our problems in perspective and reminds us that there is purpose in our pain. When we use our challenges help others, God steps in to offer them stability, support, and salvation. We can keep an eternal perspective when times are difficult by remembering that Jesus offers us more than a better now; He offers a better place.

*One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."
-Luke 23:39-43*

Discussion Questions

1. Think of a time when you were struggling and someone was there for you. How did this person help you get through your difficult situation? Discuss why it is important to have close friends who support you when you struggle and why being involved in a Small Group is essential.
2. Why do you think it is difficult for people to admit they are hurting or struggling? How can you make sure you don't disqualify yourself from helping others when you face your own struggles? Discuss the ways God can teach you as you help someone else through a difficult situation.
3. We are called to serve others by using our gifts, passions, and our difficult experiences. Discuss how serving others can change your perspective. Share what you have learned from helping others through difficult situations.

Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.
-John 19:25-27

Discussion Questions

- . We all experience hurts, offenses, and issues that may cause us to lose perspective. Discuss steps you can take to keep things in perspective and avoid passing your hurts onto the people closest to you.
- . Discuss how you can follow Jesus' example and be aware of the needs of your loved ones even when you are in pain. How can this unconditional awareness help you bring life to others?
- . Even as He was suffering on the cross, Jesus made sure His mother would be cared for when He was gone. What are some practical things you can do to make sure your loved ones are cared for today?

Prayer Focus

Thank Jesus for the example of selflessness that He set on His worst day. Ask God to help you gracefully care for your loved ones, and ask Him to help you keep your problems in perspective.

Next Steps

Use Jesus' example to focus on the needs of the people closest to you, even when you are suffering. As issues arise this week, turn to Jesus first. Ask Him for perspective. Whether it's a conversation with a family member or a workplace activity, give God a place in everything you do so that you may become more aware of His presence in your life and better hear His voice.

Leader Tip

As a Small Group leader, one of the important parts of your role is to assess the spiritual condition of your group members and help them discover what steps they can take to move closer to God. For more information and resources on how to help

