



A THEOLOGY OF COMPASSION

PASTOR BRIAN COLES

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WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group is able to lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- I Know That I Know (*The Belonging Co.*)
- Firm Foundation - He Won't (*Cody Carnes*)
- Build My Life (*Maverick City*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- John 15: 5, 16
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- Psalms 147:3
- Lamentations 3:22-23
- Matthew 11:28-30
- Hebrews 4:15-16
- John 14:26
- Galatians 4:5-7

OPENING PRAYER

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. God is described as the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort.
2. Our relationship with God changes from a courtroom to a living room when we accept Christ.
3. The entire Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) offers comfort and compassion.
4. We are called to comfort others with the comfort we receive from God.
5. Many adults struggle to recall experiences of being comforted as children.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does understanding God as a God of comfort and compassion impact your view of Him? Has this changed over time?
2. Pastor Brian described the shift from a courtroom to a living room relationship with God. How have you experienced this in your own faith journey?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 together. How does this passage challenge or encourage you in your relationship with God and others?
4. The sermon mentioned that 75% of adults surveyed couldn't recall a specific memory of being comforted as a child. How does this statistic resonate with your own experiences?
5. Discuss the three components of comfort mentioned: touch, listening, and relief. Which of these do you find easiest to give or receive? Which is most challenging?
6. How might a lack of emotional connection in childhood affect our ability to connect with God and others as adults?
7. In what ways have you experienced God's comfort recently? How can you share that comfort with others?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. This week, practice intentionally seeking God's comfort through prayer, meditation, or journaling. Note how it affects your perspective and emotions.
2. Reflect on your own comfort-giving skills. Which area (touch, listening, or relief) could you improve? Make a plan to work on this area.
3. If you're a parent or grandparent, consider how you can intentionally create comforting moments for the children in your life.
4. For those interested, encourage attendance at the upcoming ***How We Love Our Kids*** conference with Milan and Kay Yerkovich.

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank God for His comfort and compassion. Ask for His help in receiving His comfort more fully and sharing it with others.