



SDG Discussion Guide

1 Corinthians 1:3-11

June 24, 2018

For starters:

What was the best part of your week and why?

When you hear the word “comfort”, what comes to mind?

When you have been sick or hurt, what expression of care have you found most comforting?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group. Provided you can, read it aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the ESV after first reading from the NIV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. After his customary greeting in verses 1-2, Paul breaks into praise. What evokes this spontaneous worship (vv 3-7)?
2. What is the relationship between God’s ability to comfort us and our ability to comfort others (v 5)?
3. What is the connection between the sufferings of Christ and the comfort of Christ (vv 5-6)?
4. When have you been the recipient of this comfort? How are Christ’s and Paul’s sufferings related to the Corinthians?
5. What pressures is Paul facing that would cause him to despair even of life (see 7:5-7 and Acts 19:23-41)?
6. What pressures in your life have caused you to despair?
7. Paul found that intense pressures led him to depend on God all the more (v 9)? In what ways have you experienced God’s comfort in a difficult situation?
8. Do you know anyone right now who is under intense pressure? In what manner would Paul have you pray for them?
9. What if a friend asked you, “Why do you have to bother praying, since God knows what’s going to happen anyway?” What would be your reply?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw near to you anew in this prayer time. Pause, wait and expect his presence. Ask God to bring to your mind someone who needs to experience God’s comfort. Ask God to comfort this person and to use you in offering it. Maybe God will bring you to someone’s mind -- and God’s comfort will be coming....

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).