

God of All Comfort

Many times in our lives we will encounter someone experiencing sadness, grief, or fear. We have a God that provides us true comfort. On today's *Groundwork* we look at a passage we can share with each other in those times we need to be reminded of that true comfort.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Have you ever felt hesitant to talk to someone you knew was sad or hurting? Why?
- How many different life situations can you identify in which it would be appropriate to give or receive comfort?
- Think of a time when someone comforted you. What did they say or do that actually helped you feel comforted?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [God of All Comfort](#)

READ [2 Corinthians 1](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Read [Psalm 91](#) and [Isaiah 43:1-7](#). How do these Bible passages support Paul's claim in [2 Corinthians 1:3](#) that God is the "God of all comfort"?
- Consider the image of the tiered fountain that host Scott Hoezee uses in segment 2. The picture describes how God's comfort fills to overflowing so that we might comfort others in our lives with the comfort he provides. Who can *you* come alongside as God's representative to bring comfort? How might you comfort someone even when you're far apart?
- In segment 3, Scott Hoezee says, "When we come alongside someone in comfort, the reason we dare do that is not because we have such great words, but because we are all leaning on the same God, and that is our hope and comfort." Does that encourage you to be a comforter to others like Paul describes in [2 Corinthians 1:4](#)? Why or why not?
- One way to offer God's comfort is to share God's words rather than our own. For example, one might find comfort by hearing their own name in the place of the "you" found in God's promises in [Isaiah 43:1](#):

“But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created *[insert name]*,
he who formed *[insert name]*:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed *[insert name]*;
I have summoned *[insert name]* by name;
[insert name] is mine.

- How might you paraphrase Jesus’ promise in [Matthew 11:28-30](#) similarly to comfort someone who needs to hear his words?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 11:28-30](#), [Isaiah 53](#), [Hebrews 4:14-16](#), [Ecclesiastes 3:11](#)

CONCLUSION

As you conclude your study, offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for being the “God of all comfort” and for the biblical promises to which we can cling when we need his peace. Consider closing your time of prayer with this prayer from Kari Kristina Reeves in *Canyon Road: A Book of Prayer*:

Lord, when I become disoriented by the clash between circumstances and the reality of your word, sustain me.

Lord, when I become confused by the fulfillment of your promise, renew me.

Lord, when I become impatient in my lack of understanding, give me strength to endure.

Lord, when I become dismayed by the frustrations of this world, give me perseverance.

Lord, when I become hardened to the leading of your Spirit, soften me again.

Lord, when I become afraid, give me comfort.

Lord, when I become uncertain, give me surety.

Lord, when I become perplexed, give me peace.

Lord, be my all. Into your hands I commit my spirit again.

Amen (p. 75).

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