Caregiver SUPPORT

DISCUSSION GUIDE #06

What Do I Do When I Can't Fix the Problem?

Look to God.

WELCOME

» Welcome attendees, look for newcomers and acknowledge them specifically

» Share the group's mission statement:

This is a safe and judgment-free environment where caregivers can find support, encouragement, and help to lift their eyes to Christ.

» Review guidelines for the meeting:

- » Begin and end at set times
- » Respect time allotted for sharing, set by facilitator
- » What is shared in the meetings is confidential, unless it involves abuse of a minor
- » Offer an empathetic and respectful ear to others

WHAT THIS GROUP IS

- » A place to biblically care for the caregivers
- » A place to bring the hope of the gospel to their situations
- » A place to pray for God to meet and bless them with the hope of the gospel
- » A place to listen, to hear struggles, and give help from the bible
- » A place to encourage

WHAT THIS GROUP IS NOT

- » A place to deal with 'patient care' solutions and diagnosis for your loved one
- » A place to give direction for patient care for your loved one
- » A place to hear answers to 'fix' your loved one and the situation you have
- » A place to share political opinions

» Open in prayer

» Encourage group to share current situations (3 minutes). Be sensitive to new attendees.

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QUESTION

As we read tonight's section of the Bible from 2 Corinthians 1:8-10, let's think about this question, "What do I do when I can't fix the problem or situation? **Leader: Give an example of where you have struggled with this.*

DISCUSSION

The apostle Paul, who wrote 13 of the 27 books that make up the New Testament, is writing to a church in a city called "Corinth." he is sharing about his sufferings. Here's what he says in the first part of these verses:

> *"For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death."*

Have you ever struggled this way? Maybe you do now? **Allow for discussion.*

OBSERVATIONS

Paul is very honest about his suffering and he doesn't hide it from the church. He even shares about how he felt. We can do this with God too. But Paul doesn't end there, he brings hope amid his burden and despair of not being able to fix the problems himself. He turns and looks to God, he remembers God's faithfulness in the past and places his hope in God that he will be faithful again. He sets his hope on God and not his own abilities.

HOPE

In the next set of verses Paul continues, "But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again."

Believers can have great hope in difficult circumstances even when we can't fix it all because our hope is in God who has power even over death.

GO DEEPER

» Think of one thing you have been trying to fix that is not yours to fix. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 and ask God, out loud, to help you set your hope on Him who raises the dead.

» If you aren't a Christian and want to know more about the gospel and what Jesus has done, talk with another Christian you may know.

» We encourage you to be a part of a local church that preaches from the Bible. If you need help thinking through that, feel free to reach out to us.

PRAYER OF LAMENT AND HOPE

Dear Lord,

You are our great Savior! You conquered death when you rose from the grave. There is no other God like you. Some days are very hard; we hate that our loved ones must suffer so much and it's so hard to get them help! Some days we even feel like giving up, especially when everything we've tried doesn't seem to work out. But we know these hard things come to us so that we would depend on you and not ourselves. We can fix nothing! But you can fix everything, and you did that by sending Jesus. Please help us to remember this. If you can rise from the grave, you can surely help us even in our most desperate circumstances. Thank you, Jesus, for being such a powerful and compassionate Savior!

Amen