

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-11

OPENING UP: AW Tozer has famously said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” When you think of God, which of His attributes first comes to your mind?

⚙️ *Discuss some of the reasons why is it so important for us to deeply understand that God is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.*

♥️ *How do those aspects of His nature that you just discussed impact your understanding of him and draw you nearer to Him?*

1 Take some time to share stories with each other where you needed comfort in the last few months.

⚙️ *There are two kinds of comfort we can experience—direct and indirect comfort. What does each look like in real life?*

♥️ *God has already committed to give you the comfort you need to live for him this week. What difference does that make?*

2 When someone asks how you’re doing, how often do you answer, “Fine”? How might a frequency or pattern of shallow answers affect the possibility of intercessory prayer on our behalf?

🗣️ *Can you think of someone who often answers the “How are you doing” question truthfully? What is that like? Why do you think they do that?*

📖 *What can 2 Cor. 1:3-11 teach us about appropriately sharing how we are doing? See also Colossians 4:7–9, 2 Corinthians 7:5–7, Philippians 1:12–14, Psalm 32:3–5, James 5:16.*

- 3 **Prayer can sometimes be treated like more of an “extra” to be added on to the list of expectations for Christians, rather than a vital part of receiving help from others and blessings from God.** Why do you think that is?

♥ *What could we do to change that? What would growth in your prayer life look like?*

- 4 **Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 and think of the different ways that God has showed you that you need him recently.** There is a gospel paradox here. Hope is more than wishful thinking; it's a confidence in the God who has delivered, is delivering, and will deliver. How could someone view deep distress and affliction as a source of hope?

⚙️ *What are some of the ways God works out his purposes in our lives through difficulties? Why does it make a difference that God will deliver us in the end?*

- 5 **Our suffering can be used as an encouragement to other people.** How can that happen?

🗣️ *Why do you think suffering leads some people to become encouragers while other people become bitter or numb?*

♥ *How has your past helped prepare you to comfort others?*