



Biblical Justice

Week 5: God's Heart for Those Who Are Grieving

Summary

The Bible has much to say about God's heart for those in grief. A society that neglects to care for those in pain does not reflect the heart of God. This lesson will look at practical ways the Church can be a conduit of Biblical justice and compassion as it relates to those who have suffered loss or are going through periods of pain.

Teachers: Jim Bast & Pete Ruliffson, lay leaders at Wooddale Church

Discussion Questions

1. Have you experienced a time of grief in your life? What help did you receive? What help would you have liked to receive?
2. Why do you think God addresses widows and orphans close to 80 times in The Bible?
3. What are some practical ways that (you/our group) could make a difference in the lives of those who are grieving?

Resources

Because pain takes on so many different faces, we have included information about many of the resources that are offered through Wooddale Church or partner ministries.

A Place at the Table (APATT):

[A Place at the Table](#) is a ministry providing comfort and hope to those grieving the loss of a spouse. Through a series of events (online or in person), you'll learn how to navigate grief from speakers and videos while connecting with others encountering a similar season in life. You'll also receive resources to help you heal outside of group events. Our goal is to provide comfort, understanding and healing in a safe environment for you to discuss what you're facing emotionally, physically and spiritually. We pray you feel encouraged with the hope only Jesus can provide.

Email apatt@wooddale.org with questions.

GriefShare:

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel.

This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before. Grief Share groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life.

[GriefShare](#) will be launching on Thursday evenings at Wooddale Church from January 14, 2021-April 8, 2021.

Brighter Days Grief Center:

[Brighter Days Grief Center](#) is a Minnesota nonprofit organization serving adults, young adults, teenagers and children who are grieving the death or terminal diagnosis of a beloved family member. Our speaker, Pete Ruliffson has been very involved at Brighter Days Grief Center. To learn more or have questions, email pete.brighterdays@gmail.com

Stephen Ministries:

We all experience challenges in life – times when we need extra care and support. Stephen ministers are trained to provide emotional and spiritual care for anyone facing a crisis or difficult circumstance in life. Through confidential one-on-one times of conversation, prayer and encouragement, Stephen ministers support people in these defining moments of life.

Email stephen.ministry@wooddale.org if you need help or would like to become a Stephen minister.

DivorceCare:

DivorceCare is a great way to start the healing and recovery process following a divorce or separation. Sessions incorporate video, discussion and teaching, and cover topics such as anger, depression, loneliness, parenting, forgiveness, reconciliation, moving on and God's role in it all. Find out more [here](#).

Celebrate Recovery:

For many of us, the old way of life isn't working. Are you looking for some relief and freedom from the struggles in your life? Celebrate Recovery is here to offer you hope and healing for anxiety, anger, divorce, food issues, codependency, relationship problems, alcohol/drug addiction and more.

Celebrate Recovery is meeting both online and in person on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to join us in person, please RSVP here. If you are unable to physically join us yet, please register for the online live stream here. To learn more call 952.944.6300 or email pastoral.care@wooddale.org.

Family Grace Groups:

These groups are designed to provide ongoing support to family members of those living with mental health challenges. Discover hope, increase understanding of mental health conditions and treatment options, and connect with others in a confidential and structured setting.

Email pastoral.care@wooddale.org to learn more.

Job Transition Support Group:

[Job Transition Support Group](#) is for anyone who is currently unemployed, underemployed or looking for a new opportunity. Meetings help attendees with prayer, spiritual support and motivation. This is a great place to network, have your resume reviewed and find new resources for your search.

Next Step

Is there someone in your life that is going through a period of pain right now? Pray for that person. Invite them to attend APATT, GriefShare or connect with Brighter Days. Reach out to that person. Pick up your phone, write a card, send an email and consider inviting them over for dinner.

Wooddale's Care Ministries are a beautiful place to get involved in service. For more information about how you can make a difference in the lives of those who are grieving visit www.wooddale.org/care.

Next Week

Our speaker is Bob Oehrig. Bob is the executive director of [Arrive Ministries](#) in Richfield, Minnesota. He will be speaking on God's heart for refugees.