

TRANSFORMATION CHURCH

Gospel Friends

CONVERSATION GUIDE: WEEK THREE

Gospel Friends

Gospel friendships that last are rooted in hope, patience, prayer, hospitality, and grace.

SERMON RECAP:

We all go through painful circumstances in life, and in those moments we often feel alone. We don't want to burden others with our pain; we don't think anyone else could possibly understand our pain. In this week's sermon, however, Pastor Derwin shared that friends are present in pain. Gospel friendships that last are rooted in hope, patience, prayer, hospitality, and grace. As a gospel friend, when you see someone going through pain, sit with them even if it's uncomfortable. Walk with them through the pain; encourage them and remind them of God's presence in their lives. As you have conversation in your small groups, remember that this is a safe space to share your pain and be present in the pain of others.





Danielle

GOSPEL FRIEND STORY:

Danielle joined TC a couple of years ago. When she thought about how she wanted to serve at TC, she was immediately drawn to TC Teens. As a mother of six, you may find that surprising, but Danielle has a heart for young people. She understands the difficulties teens go through and that they need a safe space to share their fears and burdens. “As a mom of a tween and a teenager, it's a tricky time. And I remember that well. I wouldn't say that I had anyone in particular that I felt super comfortable talking to growing up, so I wanted to try and be that person for other kids.”

Recently when Danielle was meeting with her group of 7th-grade girls, one of them shared a deeply personal story of pain. She had lost a loved one in a tragic car accident and was still processing her feelings. Danielle was able to be present in this young girl's life as she shared her story. For Danielle, being present in someone's pain consists of listening and practicing empathy. She learned this through someone who was present in her life when she was going through the pain of infertility. From that experience she learned how important it is to simply listen and show empathy. Danielle recalls, “You never know how what you share could affect someone else's life.” We're thankful for the presence of Danielle's friend in her life, and now for Danielle's presence in the lives of the teen girls in her small group.

Discussion Questions:

UPWARD:

- Read Romans 12:12. How have we seen Jesus “rejoice in hope, be patient in affliction, be persistent in prayer”?
- Pastor Derwin often says, “Hope has a name and it’s Jesus.” Why is this true? What is the hope that He provides?

INWARD:

- 1 Corinthians 13:4 says, “Love is patient.” How can you show patience to yourself? Why is it important to do this?
- Think about a time when a friend was patient with you. How did this impact you? Share with the group.

OUTWARD:

- Do you pray with other people on a regular basis? Why or why not? How can prayer help us be present in someone else’s pain?
- Romans 12:13 tells us to “pursue hospitality.” There are many ways we can do this in our lives, not always in the ways we typically think of. Taking into consideration your personality, your home life, etc., how can you pursue hospitality?
- Read Romans 12:14-15. Talk about what these verses mean to you and how we can show grace to others by doing the things listed in these verses.



Soul Tattoo:

Be present in someone's pain.

Action Step:

You can do this by serving on our Care team and participating in Brain Health Awareness Month.

