

## Meeting the Ups and Downs of Life – Week 14

### Lesson 5.4 – When a Loved One is Diagnosed with a Terminal Illness

#### **LIFE EXAMPLE – Bargaining**

Eunice remains terribly frustrated. She tells you that she is praying and praying that God will make her healthy again. She has promised God that if he heals her, she will give all of the money she would be spending on hospital care to Martin Luther College, so that more people have an easier path to becoming pastors and teachers and more people will hear about Jesus through their service. How could God not take that deal? Still, she's not getting any better.

1. The bargaining stage isn't healthy. A person's thought process is completely skewed and disconnected from reality. What false assumptions lead people to think they can bargain with God?
2. What would you say to Eunice as she complains that her bargaining has gotten her nowhere?

#### **Light from the Word**

3. Read **1 Samuel 1:10-11**. Hannah wanted a son and prayed fervently for one. What similarities and differences do you notice between Hannah and Eunice?
4. God said "Yes" to Hannah. What caution should we give when we share this story with Eunice?
5. Read **Romans 8:31-32**. What truth does Eunice need to hear from these words?
6. In **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**, Paul prayed that God would take away some sort of affliction. Explain what God's answer to Paul means for those who want to bargain with God.

**Prayer** CW 783 Abide with Me v. 4

**Thou on my head in early youth didst smile, and though rebellious and perverse meanwhile, thou hast not left me oft as I left thee; on to the close, O Lord, abide with me. Amen.**

### **LIFE EXAMPLE – Depression**

Bargaining with God didn't work. Eunice gives up. Deep in self-pity, she sees no hope for her future. Since she doesn't sleep well, she is listless and lies around all day. She forgets things easily. She neglects to take care of much of anything, including herself. She says, "What's the use if I'm just going to die soon?"

7. Depression is a nasty thing to deal with. Where does depression focus people's attention?
  - a. What else does depression do that makes it so hard to deal with, both personally and as a loved one of someone who is in this stage of grief?

### **Light from the Word**

8. In many ways, the thoughts in **Psalm 88:13-18** reflect the thoughts of a person suffering from depression. Using this psalm as a guide, describe some of the feelings Eunice might be feeling.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How might you use this psalm as you talk with Eunice?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. When Paul wrote **Romans 8:37-39**, he and many other Christians were suffering. List the comforts that you can share with Eunice as she suffers.

**Prayer CW 783 Abide with Me v. 3**

**Come not in terrors, as the King of kings, but kind and good, with healing in thy wings,  
tears for all woes, a heart for every plea; come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me. Amen.**