

## Meeting the Ups and Downs of Life – Week 16

### Lesson 5.6 – When a Loved One is Diagnosed with a Terminal Illness

#### LIFE EXAMPLE – Acceptance

As time passes, Eunice begins to accept the fact that she will die. She trusts her Savior's love and that she will be in heaven. When she sees a tear in your eye as you visit with her, she says, "I know. It's been a rough road. But I'm in the best hands. This pain will be over soon, whenever the Lord decides it is."

1. Is your work of encouraging over once Eunice reaches this stage? Why or why not?
  
2. In **2 Corinthians 4:7-15**, God reminds us that he uses frail, ordinary human vessels to convey his precious gospel. He follows with a description of the hope every Christian has. Look at each "comparison" in verses 8 and 9. How are each of these things true for someone like Eunice?
  
3. What light do these verses shed on the purpose of human suffering?
  
4. How might Eunice's suffering be a benefit to others?
  
5. Put yourself in Eunice's place. What other verses come to mind as you accept the reality of the Lord's love, even as you stare death in the face?
  
6. At each stage of grieving, Eunice has needed help in slightly (or majorly) different ways. Let's do a quick review of those, since it's been a while. How might Christians help someone who is in the...
  - a. denial and isolation stage?
  
  - b. anger stage?
  
  - c. bargaining stage?

- d. depression stage?
  - e. What does that tell you about what our first step should be as loved ones who want to help?
7. What does this tell us about the process of offering help to those who suffer from terminal illness?

**Prayer** CW 783 Abide with Me v. 6

**I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.**

**Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still if thou abide with me. Amen.**

*We are already at 16 weeks of this series. I'm not against continuing through it, but I realize that 16 weeks of anything can become a little...dry. My plan is to cover one or two more ups/downs. After that, I'm open to ideas for the next Bible class topic. Some ideas that have come to my mind:*

- *The Festivals of the Church*
  - *We can better appreciate the place and purpose of the minor festivals of the Church Year. Why observe them? Why has the Church established them if we are supposed to worship Jesus?*
- *An overview of the Minor Prophets—Minor in size, Major in message*
  - *We spend a good amount of time talking about Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel—their prophetic books are the longest in the Old Testament. What about the other prophets? What can we learn from them? In what ways do they point us to Jesus?*
- *Biblical Threads*
  - *What threads are found throughout the entire Bible, from the Old Testament to New Testament, all the way into heaven? How do these things “hold the Bible together”?*
    - *Trees*
    - *Rivers*
    - *God's presence*
    - *Light*
    - *A speaking God*
    - *Angels*
    - *Worship*