

Session 10: God Comforts

Suggested Week of Use: November 8, 2020

Core Passage: Isaiah 49:1-13

News Story Summary

Tony Williams, a retired physicist in England, was lonely after his wife died in May. He began putting advertisements in the paper and handing out business cards when he was out walking or going shopping. All summer, he waited for the phone to ring, but it never did. Finally, he put a poster in his window explaining his situation. It said, “I find the unremitting silence 24 hours a day unbearable torture. Can no one help me?” Suddenly, he was hearing from people all around the world. He has been invited on trips and out for lunch. Some wanted their kids to be able to adopt him as a grandfather. He says he has “been completely overwhelmed and am so thankful for it all.” He hopes to get together with some of his new friends once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Lonely widower puts up a poster asking for friends”).

Focus Attention

To replace the Discuss idea under Focus Attention, after leading the group to respond to the question using the letters in the word “comfort,” share the story of Tony Williams. Ask: *How do the words listed for COMFORT apply to Tony’s situation? What other situations might a person face that could cause similar feelings?* Complete the step using the Transition idea.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Review idea under Summarize and Challenge, remind the group to Tony’s story. Remind the group of other situations that might cause a person to feel similarly. Call attention to the summary statements under Apply the Text in the Personal Study Guide or Daily Discipleship Guide. Review the chart created and direct the group to identify ways the summary statements apply to Tony’s and the other situations identified. Complete the step using the Ask idea.