

# COMMON COMFORT – CARDBOARD PROFESSIONS

## IN THE MEANTIME – PART 6

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### START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- You can find some on page 6 [here](#).
- What was your favorite blanket/pillow/bedding/pajamas as a kid? (i.e. comfortable)

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### START THINKING. ASK THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- Who is someone in your life that has suffered in a way that makes them uniquely qualified for comfort people?
- During the message, Mark said, “Our capacity to comfort is determined by the degree to which we’ve suffered.” Respond to that statement. In what ways is it hopeful? In what ways is it scary?
- Read 2 Corinthians 1:3–7. What is the connection between praising God in the midst of suffering and being able to comfort others? Does that connection sound too good to be true?

#### **2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (NIV)**

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.*

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### START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- Do you tend to learn from the wisdom of others or from your own mistakes? How has that tendency increased or decreased suffering and adversity in your life?
- What Cardboard Profession touched your heart? If you shared one, tell about your experience.
- Talk about a time when you were comforted by someone who had experienced circumstances similar to your own. How did you benefit from that person’s perspective?
- Have you ever had the opportunity to comfort someone because you’d experienced something similar to what he or she was going through? If so, how was that experience life-giving for that person? How was it life-giving for you?
- What can you do to begin to receive your adversity as a gift from God and leverage that gift to comfort others? How can this group help you and support you as you take a next step?

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### START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Our Father, thank You for the stories of our life, and for not using the scenes we would like to forget. Amen.

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### START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- When you have an opportunity to comfort someone, take it.