

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series on Letters to New Christians. Today's topic: LOVE-DRIVEN MINISTRY.

1) Finding comfort in God and sharing comfort

- a. 2 Corinthians 1:1-7 What word do you hear repeated at the beginning of Paul's second letter to Christians in Corinth?
- b. Why was a message of comfort encouraging for Christians in Corinth?
- c. What was Paul's testimony about comfort he received from God? 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
- d. Share a time when you were comforted by the God of all comfort.
- e. Think of a story in the ministry of Jesus where He comforted someone in a time of need.
- f. Share a time you were able to comfort someone in need.

2) Serving others with simplicity and godly sincerity

- a. 2 Corinthians 1:12-14 Why did Paul feel the need to defend his ministry to believers in Corinth? (see also 2 Corinthians 2:17, 4:2)
- b. Share an example of someone in the Bible who served others with simplicity and godly sincerity. (Dorcas, Barnabas, etc.)
- c. How can we ensure our motives are pure when we are serving others? Psalm 139:1-3,23-24
- d. What is an appropriate response if you are accused of improper motives in your service for others?

3) Speaking the truth in love

- a. What was Paul's attitude and intention when writing to believers in Corinth? 2 Corinthians 2:1-4
- b. How did Paul's correspondence impact the Christians in Corinth? 2 Corinthians 7:8-12
- c. Share another story in the Bible where a prophet had to deliver a message of reproof or correction. (Nathan, Elijah, Paul, etc.)
- d. Why is it important to always speak the truth in love, especially when bringing a message of reproof or correction? 2 Corinthians 2:5-8, Ephesians 4:15, Colossians 4:6
- e. Share an example from the ministry of Jesus where He brought a message of reproof or correction but spoke the truth in love. (John 8:10-11, Luke 10:41-42, etc.)
- f. How can you be certain if God wants you to bring a message of reproof or correction? When is it time to speak and when is it time to remain silent and simply pray? (James 1:5, Psalm 32:8, etc.)
- g. Share a time when someone was directed by God to bring a message of reproof or correction to you. How did you respond?

