



Lesson 5

How are you going to help me?

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, you bring us into your work to help the hurting with hope. We may wonder what it will look like to do this important task. Use your Word and guide our hearts to understand and make plans how our congregation can do what you call us to do. Bless our time in your Word and guide our discussions and plans. In your name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

It's a blessing when God gives us an opportunity to help the hurting with hope. Here's a recap of what we've learned.

- 1) We have seen who the hurting are: they are just like us; sinners who need God's forgiving love in their lives.
- 2) We have taken time to know what the hurting are like: they are sheep Jesus wants close to himself; we take time to ask them questions to know them.
- 3) The Lord has led us in his Word to see why we want to help the hurting: when we help them, we are helping those who need Jesus their Savior, who wants them to be close to him.

In our lesson today, we will put down plans for *how* we will help. We'll be able to answer the hurting, on behalf of our congregation and ourselves, when they ask us, "How are you going to help me?"

Search the Scriptures

1. In order to answer someone who asks, "How are you going to help me," let's look at Scripture to note God's guidance in how we will want to help. If you were going to help someone who is hurting, use each of the Bible passages to help you answer their question. Finish the sentence after each passage.

Philippians 2:3-7

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

How am I going to help you? I am going to help you by _____ .

John 13:12-17

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

How am I going to help you? I am going to help you by _____ .

2. How we help someone is going to be a fruit of our faith. Christians bear the fruit of looking and acting like Christians. From Paul's list describing the fruit of the Spirit, what will each of these look like when we bear this fruit? Pick out three from the list below and give an example of what it would look like in helping the hurting with hope. We'll hear samples.

Galatians 5:22,23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Fruit of the Spirit	Example of what it would look like when practiced by the Christian at our congregation
Love	
Joy	
Peace	
Forbearance (Patience)	
Kindness	

Goodness	
Faithfulness	
Gentleness	
Self-Control	

3. Our new person the Holy Spirit created in us wants to serve God and serve others. Our new person delights in helping those who are hurting because it means we are serving someone in need and bringing loving service to our Savior. Read the following passages that connect us with helping the hurting with hope. Take a minute to answer the following two questions on your own. If you'd like, compare your answers with someone next to or near you. We'll hear samples.
 - a. What common ideas are in these passages?
 - b. What conclusions can you draw from these passages when it comes to helping the hurting?

1 John 2:3-6

³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

John 13:34,35

³⁴[Jesus said,] “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Ephesians 5:1,2

¹Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

4. Helping brings blessings to others and to us. Based on the Luke 14 passage section below, name at least two blessings the hurting and the ones helping each receive.

Luke 14:13,14

³“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Bringing It Home

5. With those at your table, with another table, or on your own, complete the following SWOT analysis of how our congregation is doing helping the hurting with hope.

How is our congregation helping the hurting?	
STRENGTHS <i>What is our church good at doing when it comes to helping the hurting?</i>	WEAKNESSES <i>Where do you think there is a need for improvement for us in helping the hurting?</i>
OPPORTUNITIES <i>Opportunities are outside our church. We don't have it right now. Name something we could pursue to achieve our goal.</i>	THREATS <i>Threats arise from outside and are uncontrollable. They prevent us from achieving our goal.</i>

6. So what is it going to look like at our congregation? Complete this sentence in as many ways as you can: Our congregation will help the hurting with hope by...

7. Write a haiku – Write a haiku to summarize what you learned today. A haiku doesn't need to rhyme. It is three lines with syllables of 5-7-5 for the lines.

Living My Faith

It starts with one person. One person leads by example and more follow. Carry out a helping spirit with those who come to us hurting. Instead of waiting for someone to ask how we are going to help them, put your faith into action and let them have no doubt we will.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, you show us how we can help the hurting and you provide the motivation and power do so. Bless our congregation and each of us with a heart that wants to help the hurting and says that they are part of us. Give us opportunities to put this into practice. Bring the hurting to our place of worship that they may enjoy your helpful hands using us as your instruments of grace. In your name we pray. Amen.