

TAKING IT HOME

10. Write a short prayer about something that you are struggling with at this time.

11. Is there someone in your life who may need acceptance and compassion? Write down what you will offer to him/her over the next week.

12. Write a prayer for someone who needs comfort at this time

PRAYER GUIDE

Praise & Thanksgiving:

Advent Mission Challenge for Heifer International exceeded goal!

\$7219 collected

Sugar River Growth Groups

Pray for healing:

Patti Moore, daughter of Helen Warner-leg blood clot

Harold Morris, Carol Kendall's father-lung biopsy

Marjorie Severance, Linda Cook's mother at home

Mike Cook, Jim Vander Pas, Diane Lukas

Pray for:

Each week we pray for a UMC from our district, this week: Sherman

Avenue , located in Madison, their pastor Jakes Voker and the 92 members

People who are do not have health care .

Homeless and all those affected by frigid weather in Midwest and throughout the country

End of suicide bombings Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq and for the victims and their families

Sugar River United Methodist Church SERMON OUTLINE for Sunday, January 10, 2010

When Christians Get it Wrong: When Bad Things Happen Heartless to Compassionate

Text: Job 16:1-5

Pastor Gary Holmes

1. What are our assumptions about what happens in life?

What is the Nature of God?

Sovereign

Loving

2. How do we respond to others in difficult times?

Is someone's tragedy a result of God's will?

3. The Story of Job and his friends

...the challenges of explaining why...

Jesus heals in John 9:1-12...not why, but now what.

4. Can we move towards being more compassionate?

How are we doing with our acts of compassion?

...send a card, hold a hand in silence...

GROWTH GUIDE – Sugar River UMC

For the week of January 10, 2010

This is our last week for our scheduled Growth Groups until next year. Please take time to celebrate the new relationships and discuss your plans for the Winter Session (Week of January 10 – week of March 14, 2010).

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Tell about a favorite story or movie that you believe shows compassion/caring.

2. What qualities do you look for in a good friend?

3. Give examples of some actions that were taken when you or someone you know experienced a loss? How do Sugar River and its members react to people who are experiencing a loss?

DIGGING DEEPER

Job 2: 11-13 (NIV)

11 When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. 12 When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. 13 Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

4. If you were one of Job's friends, what are some words that you would say upon seeing him the first time that would "encourage" and "comfort" him? What actions are most appropriate? How would you know?

5. What do you think was going through Job's friend's minds while they were sitting in silence? Are you comfortable with showing up for a friend who is going through a terrible hardship? Explain why or why not.

6. What do you think Jesus would tell a grieving relative of someone killed in a tragedy or dying of cancer?

Job 16: 1-5 (NIV)

1 Then Job replied: 2 "I have heard many things like these; miserable comforters are you all! 3 Will your long-winded speeches never end? What ails you that you keep on arguing? 4 I also could speak like you, if you were in my place; I could make fine speeches against you and shake my head at you. 5 But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief.

7. Have you experienced a crisis or loss that has changed your relationship with friends or families? Did the relationships become stronger or weaker in this crisis? How did your relationship with God change during and after this crisis?

8. Talk about a time when you found yourself blaming someone for the suffering they were going through. Write down how you should have responded in this situation.

9. If God is almighty, how can we explain the suffering of innocents and believers?