

God's Words to the Bereaved

We all suffer the loss of loved ones, and we all have some idea how to care for the bereaved. Yet we always want to find more words of hope, encouragement, and comfort in Scripture and in Christ, which is what we will do in this session.

Ed Welch holds a PhD in counselling psychology with a neuro-psychology specialty from the University of Utah, as well as an MDiv from Biblical Theological Seminary. Ed has been counselling and teaching at the Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation for over thirty-five years and has written many books and articles on biblical counselling including, *When People Are Big and God Is Small*, *Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave*, *Depression*, *Running Scared*, *Shame*, *Interrupted*, and *Side by Side: Walking with Others in Wisdom and Love*. He and his wife, Sheri, have two married daughters and eight grandchildren.

I. Help for those who grieve begins with humility and love

A. We come from a long line of unhelpful people

B. The bereaved are rarely looking for profound insights

II. Since God comes close, we come close to those who experience loss (Heb 2:17)

III. God is God. We do not have to explain, interpret or answer questions (Ps 131, Is 55:8-9).
This gives us the opportunity to walk with them, even follow them, rather than lead them.

IV. God is good. We speak with him and about him (Psalms, Matt 11:28-30), and we ask for eyes to see and ears to hear.

V. As an expression of his goodness, God remembers us. We too remember the bereaved (Ps 10:14).

Suggested Readings:

What Grieving People Wish You Knew about What Really Helps (and What Really Hurts),
Nancy Guthrie