



PART 3: NEEDY PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION

We've all had people who push our buttons. These people are the hardest people to love. We have people in our lives who are critical, hypocritical, manipulative, or over-needly. Dealing with these people is one of the biggest challenges in life. But there are some incredible truths from Scripture that help us know how to deal with them and love them like Jesus loves them.

BIBLE VERSES

Acts 3:1-8
Galatians 6:7
Psalm 70:5
2 Corinthians 13:11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We've all had needy people in our lives...people whose "need quotient" exceeds our "give quotient." How do these relationships make you feel?
2. Read Acts 3:6-7. What Peter and John gave this man was not a **hand out** but a **hand up**. What's the difference between giving a needy person a **hand out** and a **hand up**?
3. Pastor Will taught the difference between relief and restoration. Relief is immediate and temporary assistance. Restoration is working with people to restore their God-given potential. Describe some specific situations where relief is the best response for a needy person and situations where restoration is the best response.
4. Pastor Will taught that when we step in and cushion the blow between people and the consequences of their actions and decision we actually rob them of the wisdom they could have gained and we lead them towards becoming codependent. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
5. Restoration requires inviting God into the situation. Peter understood this ("*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.*") What are some specific ways you can be intentional about inviting and involving God in the process of helping needy people?

MOVING FORWARD

Three prayers to pray when dealing with needy people:

1. God, help me to give people what they **need**, not just what they **want**.
2. God, help me stay out of your way by not rescuing people from their **consequences**.
3. God, help me to remember I'm in **need** too and that you are always the **answer**.

Will you commit to praying these prayers when you are confronted with needy people this week?

If Brazos Fellowship can help you meet a need visit www.brazosfellowship.com/care-network