

LESSON 1 DISCOVERING SERIOUS ILLNESS

Discussion Questions

1. When Wangerin says, "I have cancer," how do you react to these words? When have you or someone you know said something similar? Describe the feelings or circumstances behind these words.
2. No one is immune to unforeseen difficulties that can affect us physically, emotionally, financially, or spiritually. In situations such as those Wangerin faced with his oncologist, how do you react to hearing news that is "uncomfortable?"
3. Wangerin likened embracing the news of his cancer to an adventure such as mountain climbing that would take him to places he had never been. How do you respond to his image of adventure? How does Romans 5:3-5 give you reason for seeing adventure when difficulties occur?
4. In facing his cancer, Wangerin chose to embrace the truth that he had stage 3B lung cancer, about which the doctor said, "It will kill you." Why was it important for him to share this reality with those closest to him?
5. When Jesus spoke the truth about his own death, how did Peter react? (See Matthew 16:21-22.) How can you understand his reaction?

Exercise

Read Romans 8:35-39. What were the difficult realities that St. Paul faced? List them. Amid these difficulties, what were the assertions he made? List them. What is the basis for these assertions? How can embracing these assertions enable you to "look death straight in the eye" instead of "looking away?"

Journaling Verses

2 Corinthians 4: 8-10

(For your journaling time, read the Scripture provided and take six to ten minutes to listen to the verses and apply them to your life. Is there a promise to claim, a direction to follow, or some other encouragement? You might write a prayer based on your journaling time.)