

# 2 CORINTHIANS

## 1:3-11

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*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all compassion and the God of all comfort who comforts us in our troubles so that we can comfort others with the same comfort that we've received from God.*





## 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-11

*For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we're distressed, it's for your salvation; and if we're comforted, it's for your comfort...*

***OUR HOPE** for you **IS FIRM, BECAUSE WE KNOW** that just as you've shared in our sufferings, so also you will share in our comfort.*



# 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-11

*We don't want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the hardships we've suffered... We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life itself. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death.*

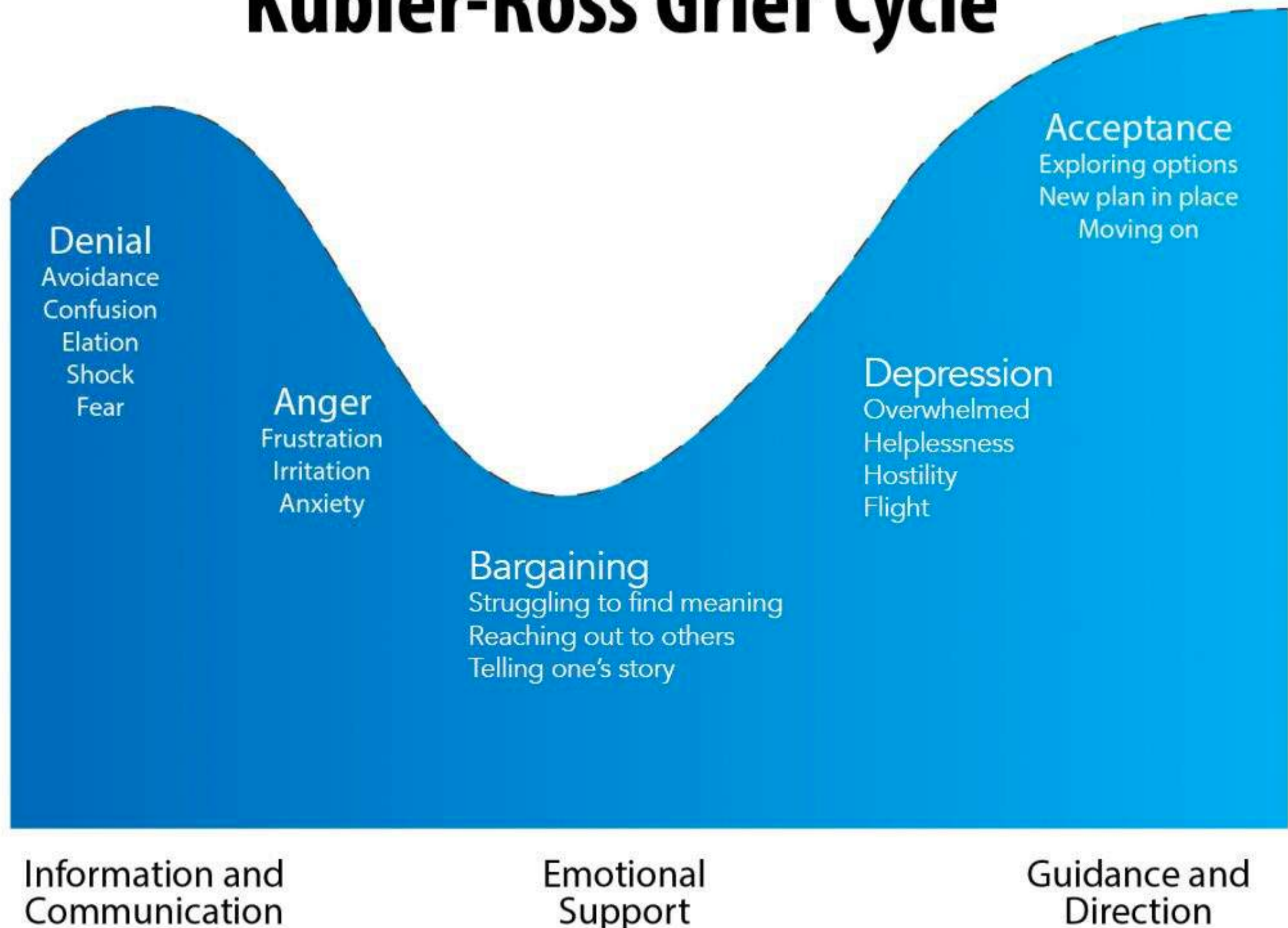
*But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He **HAS** delivered us... and we've set our hope on him that he **WILL CONTINUE** to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks to God for the gracious favor granted to us in answer to your many prayers.*





# CONVENTIONAL STAGES OF LOSS

## Kübler-Ross Grief Cycle





A photograph of two children riding their bicycles through a shallow, flooded area. The child in the foreground is wearing a dark jacket and a cap, while the child in the background is wearing a red jacket. They are both smiling and appear to be enjoying the activity. The background shows a grassy field and some trees.

# EVERYONE HERE IS EITHER...

- Going through a storm
- Helping a friend through a storm
- Preparing for a storm



# SHOCK

*Ecclesiastes 9:12 "People can never predict when hard times might come. Like fish in a net or birds in a snare, people are often caught by sudden tragedy."*

*Jeremiah says, "A horrible and shocking thing has happened."*

*Ezekiel, "I sat for seven days, shocked at what had happened to me." Psalm 143, "I'm in total darkness, as someone long dead. My heart is heavy and I feel numb all over."*



*Job and his friends.*

# WHAT TO DO FOR A FRIEND IN SHOCK



## 1. Show up

*When Job's three friends... 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.*

## 2. Share their pain

*Job's friends saw him from a distance and they began to weep aloud.*

## 3. Take the initiative



# WHEN YOU ARE IN SHOCK



## 1. Cry out to God

## 2. Let others help you

*Ecclesiastes 4, "Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one... and if one falls down, then the other can pull him up; if one falls down the other can pull him up; but if a man falls when he's alone, he's in trouble!... One person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer; and having three is even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."*

## 3. Let others hold you



# SORROW

- John 11:33 & 36, *“When Jesus saw Lazarus’ sister sobbing, [that was Mary] and he saw how all those with her were crying also, his heart was touched, and he was deeply moved... Then Jesus started crying. ‘See how much he loved Lazarus!’ they said.”*
- **Loss is unavoidable, but grief is a choice.**
- **Grief is healthy.**
- **God grieves with me!**
- **Grief takes time.**





# WHAT TO DO IN SORROW

- Put a name to what has been lost
- Lament
- Ask Jesus to heal our broken heart



# STRUGGLE

*I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate... No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't... But there is a law at work within me that is at war with my mind. Romans 7:15-23*

*Jacob sent his family across the Jabbok River but he stayed behind, alone. That night, a Man came and wrestled with him until daybreak. When the Man saw that he wasn't winning the struggle, he hit Jacob on the hip, and it was thrown out of joint. The Man said, 'Let me go; daylight is coming.' Jacob said, **'I WON'T LET GO UNTIL YOU BLESS ME.'***

*The Man asked 'What is your name?' 'Jacob,' he replied. The Man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob. You have **STRUGGLED WITH GOD** and with men, and you have **WON**; so your name will be **ISRAEL**.'*



# WRESTLING WITH GOD



- We doubt his wisdom
- We want to be in control.
- We ask why
- God allows us to wrestle
- He touches us where we are strongest
- We win by surrendering!

# PRAY

- Cry out
- Complain
- Use real language and vocabulary
- In faith
- Claim His promises
- Remind Him of what He has said
- Express trust in Him





# SURRENDER

*David begged God to spare the child. He went without food and lay all night on the bare ground. The leaders of the nation pleaded with him to get up and eat with them, but he refused. Then on the seventh day the baby died. David's advisers were afraid to tell him. 'He was so broken up about the baby being sick,' they said. 'What will he do to himself when we tell him the child is dead?' But when David saw them whispering, he realized what had happened. 'Is the baby dead?' he asked. 'Yes,' they replied.*

2 Samuel 12:16-19 (NLT)

# THE PATHWAY TO PEACE



- Accept what cannot be changed
- It's not the end of the story
- Take care of yourself
- Refocus on God through worship
- Do something productive
- Keep on loving even in your pain





# MEN OF CHARACTER, MEN OF SUFFERING

Abraham  
Joseph  
Moses

Daniel  
Peter  
Paul



# GOD HAS A GREATER PLAN



- For we know...
- God causes
- All thing
- For good
- Those who love him and pursue his plan



# SERVICE

*We were crushed and overwhelmed...and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of **God**, who alone could save us...and he did help us!*

2 Corinthians 1:8-10

*By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ.*  
Galatians 6:2

*For this reason we never become discouraged. Even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet our spiritual being is renewed day after day. And these temporary troubles we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble. For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (TEV)



# INDIVIDUAL INGREDIENTS

- Sugar (stevia)
- Brown sugar (honey)
- Baking soda
- Salt
- Eggs
- Flour (gluten free)
- Vanilla
- Butter (ghee, coconut oil)





# COOKIES



- Remember that God's plan is good.
- I rejoice and I give thanks.
- I refuse to give up.

# BEN'S PROJECT, OUR PROJECT



- 100 souls or 1000
- Be like Ben
- BCMF
- Overt and Covert



# MORE LIKE JESUS

- God can develop the fruit of the Spirit in your life is by putting you in the exact opposite situation.
- The Holy Spirit
- The Word of God
- Other people
- Problems, pressure, pain and suffering



# DEVELOPMENT

How do we look more like Jesus?

*For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.*

2 Corinthians 4:18

***"Don't be bewildered or surprised"** when you go through the fiery trials ahead, for this is no strange, unusual thing that is going to happen to you."*

1 Peter 4:12

*"We know that these troubles produce patience. And patience produces **character...**"*

Romans 5:3-4

*"... let the process go on until your endurance is fully developed, and you will find that you have become men of mature character...with no weak spots."*

James 1:3-4



