

Ready, Set, Grow

Part Three - A Growing Empathy

2 Peter 3:18

Let the gift of undeserved grace and the understanding that come from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ help you keep on growing.

One of the most important areas of personal growth and development will be a growing empathy.

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

A growing empathy often requires the fertilizer of suffering.

2 Corinthians 1:4

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

Proverbs 31:8-9

Open your mouth for those with no voice, for the cause of all the dispossessed. 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the poor and needy.

How to Grow in Empathy

1. Lean in, listen and learn.

James 1:19

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

Proverbs 18:2

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

Proverbs 18:13

It's stupid and embarrassing to give an answer before you listen.

2. Lament.

Jeremiah 4:8

So put on sackcloth, lament and wail, for the fierce anger of the LORD has not turned away from us.

Jeremiah 22:3

This is what the LORD says: Be fair-minded and just. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Quit your evil deeds! Do not mistreat

foreigners, orphans, and widows. Stop murdering the innocent! 16 He (Josiah) gave justice and help to the poor and needy, and everything went well for him. Isn't that what it means to know me?" says the LORD. 17 "But you! You have eyes only for greed and dishonesty! You murder the innocent, oppress the poor, and reign ruthlessly."

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

3. Lead.

1 Timothy 4:12

Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

Proverbs 12:26

One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Luke 22:25-26

Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.'²⁶But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.