



# TOGETHER IN THIS

## START HERE:

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This Eastertide we each have the opportunity to take part in our "Together in This" campaign. For 8 weeks we are going to share the stories of our community. We're going to celebrate the profound life change experienced here at Forefront, and we're going to highlight the ways that new stories can and will be created.

## WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

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Our church community has changed the lives of hundreds, maybe even thousands of people, because of the grace and generosity given through the committed people of our church. We want to continue to do this work for years to come, but we need resources to make it happen.

## WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

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Give of your resources as a testament to God's grace in your life so others can experience that same grace within community. Give a generous one-time gift or set-up a recurring gift to help us reach our goal of \$250,000 by May 22.

## OPENING QUESTION:

Describe a time when you comforted someone or someone comforted you. What did you/they do?

## BIBLE STUDY:

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-14

Comfort is mentioned many times in just five verses. How is comfort different from other words that Paul could have used such as console?

What is the pattern of interchange that Paul describes between the Messiah and his followers in 1:1-7 and between the apostle and the church?

How have you seen this dynamic at work yourself?

What does Paul say he has been feeling or experiencing in 1:8-14?

What does he say is the purpose of his suffering?

Paul has reached a point where the night has become totally dark and all hope of dawn has disappeared. His burden is heavy and his natural resources of energy are worn down to nothing. What else is Paul hoping for in describing all of this to the Corinthians in 1:8-14?

Who can you be connected to in prayer as Paul describes?

## DISCUSSION:

Read this article ahead of time on **holding space** from Heather Plett, and if possible, ask your group to read it ahead of time too.

**"What it means to 'hold space' for people, plus eight tips on how to do it well"**

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

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For more info or to RSVP to any of these events, go to

**[forefrontnyc.com/calendar](http://forefrontnyc.com/calendar)**

**5/11 - Game Night at the Kenmore**

**5/13 - Together in This Gala**

**5/14 - Good Sense equip course**

**5/24 - Introverts Gathering**

Discuss Plett's eight lessons learned in holding space (comforting) others.

1. Give people permission to trust their own intuition and wisdom.
2. Give people only as much information as they can handle.
3. Don't take their power away.
4. Keep your own ego out of it.
5. Make them feel safe enough to fail.
6. Give guidance and help with humility and thoughtfulness.
7. Create a container for complex emotions, fear, trauma, etc.
8. Allow them to make different decisions and to have different experiences than you would.

### CLOSING PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, you gather us together in our faith journey. Trusting in you, we join one another as a community, a community of faith on a journey. A journey to grow ever deeper in our faith, in our love, in our desire to long for you. Along the way, remind us of your love, of your ever-mindful presence. Let us never lose hope along the way. For it is in your strength and love and the grace you bestow upon us that we can share love with all those in our community. It is in the name of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever, we pray, amen.