

TRUTH

Read two passages from *The Healer*, pages 106 and 188.

Let's Get Acquainted

Tell us a story about a time when you had to deal with a hard truth.

What happened? How were you involved? How did it turn out?

Let's Talk About It

- Who should be the person to decide just what and how much we should be told about our illness, the course of action, and the anticipated outcome? Should the patient decide? Significant other? Doctor? Nurse? Family member? Close friend? Whom? Why? How?
- When someone you love is facing a serious illness or similar life crisis, what can you say? What should you do? Is it best to avoid addressing the issue, so as not to add to their existing burden? Or is it best to surface it straight up and offer whatever help you can provide? Or is there perhaps another option, a middle road somewhere between stark reality and “never-never land”? How do you decide?
- Why is it so difficult to relate “bad news” truth? How can it be made easier? When words seem inadequate, or even worse, detrimental, how can difficult messages be communicated in a gracious and grace-full manner?

Prayer:

God of all Truth and Grace, give us honesty, courage, and words of grace and love as we are compelled to share hard times and harder messages with those we love. May our words be hope-inspiring and life-giving, planting seeds of strength and perseverance.