

Responding to the Opioid Crisis

Part 1: What the Heck are Opioids?

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Discussion Questions for Part I

1. We have all been affected by the opioid epidemic in some way or another, how have you been affected by the epidemic? (family, friends, property values, fear, tax increases, store prices, anger)
2. What other substances have humans known about that we crave or worse, become addicted to? (coffee, cocoa, alcohol, tobacco, sugar...)
3. Why do humans take substances to alter or change their mood? Why a cup of coffee in the morning? Why a cigarette after a meal? Why a glass of wine after work?
4. How do we determine if a substance (chemical) is good for us or detrimental to us? How do we find the line between proper use and improper use? Is this the job of government or medical community or pharmaceutical companies or advertising agencies or pharmacists or Health Insurance Companies or someone else? Who do you trust? Why do you trust them?
5. Why would a physician prescribe an opioid in an unhealthy manner? Greed? Ignorance? Fear?
6. How do Health Insurance Companies drive our health care? Is there a better way?
7. Why would a farmer in Columbia grow poppies for the illegal manufacture of Morphine and Heroin? What other crops could they grow that produce so much profit?
8. How is a farmer who grows poppies different than a farmer who grows tobacco?
9. What excuses do we use to keep from leaving our church building and stepping out in faith to take the great good news to the lost?