

# WELCOME



Anxiety is so prevalent today it seems to have become a buzzword, and yet we often aren't exactly sure of all that is entailed when we use it. Is anxiety a medical condition, a mental disorder, or is it sinful? As a Biblical counselor, I think it's really important that those of us who experience anxeity or love someone who experiences it gain a better understanding of the definitions and symptoms.

In this course I hope to help you understand what anxiety is and what you can do about it, and to help you grow in your confidence and peace.



COUNSELOR EDUCATOR AUTHOR







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## COURSE OUTLINE



#### UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY

Differentiate between worry, stress, and anxiety and develop a better understanding of types of anxiety disorders and symptoms.

#### ANXIETY AND THE BODY

Learn about the physical symptoms of anxiety, how to differentiate anxiety from other physical problems, and begin to develop strategies to help.

#### THE ANXIETY CYCLE

Learn how and why anxiety tends to get worse instead of better without intervention, and why some of our modern habits contribute to anxiety.

#### CARING FOR THE BODY

Learn ways to better care for your body specific to anxiety.

#### HEALING IN THE MIND AND SPIRIT

Learn how to process and deal with emotions and anxious thoughts.

### **NOTES**

### UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY

#### **Everyone Experiences Anxiety**

- You are not alone
- Anxiety occurs on a spectrum of severity
- Worry, stress, and anxiety are under the same umbrella, but are different

## Anxiety Serves a God-designed Purpose

- Genesis 1:27
- Psalm 139:13
- Colossians 1:16

#### Healing from Anxiety

Because anxiety serves a purpose, healing doesn't mean getting rid of it, but knowing what to do with it.

We are called to walk in wisdom, but not to walk in fear.

## MODULE 1 REFLECTION

Which do you struggle most with - anxiety, worry, or stress?
How does it change your view of anxiety to consider its God-designed purpose?
Why do you want to experience healing from your own anxiety? Knowing our motivation is important to our follow-through.



# ANXIETY AND THE BODY

#### Anxiety in the Body

- Anxiety causes a variety of physical symptoms
- Short-term and immediate
- Long-term and cumulative

#### **Underlying Medical Conditions**

- neurologial conditions
- diabetes
- heart disease
- nutritional deficiencies
- thyroid disorders
- hormonal imbalances

#### Anxiety vs ADHD

#### **Anxiety and Trauma**

Anxiety can be related to past traumatic occurences.

What is traumatic for one person may not be for another, and there are varying levels of trauma.

## MODULE 2 REFLECTION

What physical symptoms of anxiety do you most commonly experience?
Is it possible that any past experiences you haven't processed or dealt with are contributing to your anxiety?
If you aren't sure, consider, are the things you worry about future focused or primarily about protecting yourself from harm?



## UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY

#### The Anxiety Cycle



#### The Window of Tolerance

Understanding emotional regulation, hyperarousal vs. hypoarousal, and what it feels like to begin challenging yourself towards growth.

#### Faith Over Fear

- Joshua 1:9
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- Isaiah 41:10



## MODULE 3 REFLECTION

What types of anxiety-provoking situations do you tend to avoid??
What are the most common coping mechanisms you use when avoiding these situations?
What bad habits do you have that could be adding to your stress level?



## **CARING FOR** THE BODY

#### Sleep

- Assess Environment
- Funneling Method
- Other tips and tricks

#### Eat

- Hypoglycemia
- Stress-induced IBS
- Caffeine
- Nausea
- OCD and eating disorders

#### Exercise

- Boost serotonin and endorphins
- Stress relief
- White space for the brain to have a break or emotionally process
- Group activities provide exposure therapy as well as benefits of social interaction
- OCD and eating disorders

#### **Grounding and Mindfulness**

## MODULE 4 REFLECTION

What changes do you need to make in your sleeping, eating, and exercising habits to lower your baseline level of anxiety?
After answering the above question, consider how you could make these changes happen realistically.
What types of grounding techniques do you think would work best for you? Brainstorm and plan to try them.



# HEALING IN THE MIND AND SPIRIT

#### The Purpose of Emotions

- Emotions in Scripture
- Emotions connect us to God
- Emotions connect us to others
- The Mind in Scripture
- · Emotions as data

#### **Emotional Processing**

#### **Keep Moving Forward**

- Journaling
- Prayer
- Renewing your Mind in Truth
- Worship
- "After-action" reports
- Relationships



## MODULE 5 REFLECTION

Do you tend towards being overly emotional or overly logical? What do you think you need to do to change this dynamic?
Are you more likely to go to fight mode or flight mode? Is that different in different situations or with different people?
What are some ways you could improve how you process your emotions?



## GOAL SETTING

GOAL	ACTION STEPS
	1.
	2.
	3.
GOAL	ACTION STEPS
	1.
	2.
	3.
GOAL	ACTION STEPS
	1.
	2.
	3.

## THANK YOU



I hope the information in this ecourse has been helpful for you. As you continue on your journey, I would be honored if you chose to subscribe to my newsletter or follow me on social media. I know the world is inundated by those things right now, but it's my desire to continue to produce resources that teach, comfort, and encourage in ways that are practical and Biblical and to share them with those whom they might benefit.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, **so that we** can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ."

2 Corinthians 1:3-5



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