

REPURPOSED



Community Group Discussion Guide

May 24, 2015

Week 2 | To Experience God's Strength
2 Corinthians 12:7-10

This Sunday's sermon looks at Paul. Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-12:10 before answering the following questions.

Introduction

We've all had seasons in our lives where we've been in very difficult circumstances and we've asked God to change those circumstances. To make things better. And God didn't answer our prayer. At least not the way we thought he should. And we've asked ourselves the big question many people have asked at least once in their lifetime. The question... "Why doesn't God do something about that?"

This series looks at three stories of three different men in the New Testament, where this question could have been asked. Each one shows that God cares deeply for us in the most difficult of times and that God can bring about the very best through the hardest of times in our lives.

Questions for Study

1. What would you say has been the hardest time you've gone through in life? What was it about it that made it most challenging?
2. How did this experience impact your relationship with God? Both in the short term and over time?
3. How did it impact your relationship with other people?
4. What did you learn through it?
5. Looking back, if there's anything you could change in how you responded to it, what would that be?

From your reading in 2 Corinthians 11:1-12:10 answer the following questions:

6. What was Paul very reluctant to do, but he did it to protect the church in Corinth?
7. Summarize the things Paul included in his _____. (I'm not giving away the answer to # 6.) 😊 What is the last thing he mentioned?
8. Have you ever bargained with God in prayer? What was your bargain? What could have Paul used if he tried bargaining with God?
9. What did God do to Paul and why did God do it? Can you think of someone else in scripture who had a similar experience, but for a different reason? If yes, who?
10. What was God's answer to Paul's prayer?
11. Why did Paul respond the way he did to this answer? What do we learn from this for our own hard times?