

Dear Church,

Community Group Discussion Guide Strength In Weakness 2 Corinthians 12:1-10



1. Start off by sharing a story about how you discovered a personal weakness. Feel free to use examples that are either humorous or serious.
2. "In our culture, we're often encouraged to either MASK our weaknesses or MINIMIZE them." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Explain.
3. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, then answer the following questions.
 - What is Paul choosing to boast about in this passage (verses 5, 9)?
 - How does this challenge the way we're often tempted to approach personal weaknesses?
 - What has Paul learned in the midst of his struggle with his personal weakness (look especially at verses 7-10)?
 - How does our weakness become a space where God's grace and power can work?
4. The illusion of total self-sufficiency and a culture of "posing" (pretending to have it all together) compete with the value of weakness that we see here in 2 Corinthians 12. Why?
5. Have you seen ways Christ's power has been manifest in and through a weakness you have? Share examples that come to mind.
6. Reflect on the life and death of Jesus. How is His life an example of God's power being made perfect in weakness? How is His crucifixion the ultimate example of God's power being made perfect in weakness?
7. Why is a big view of God so important to keep in mind, as we think about our personal weaknesses? What happens if we focus only our weakness, and fail to remember who God is and what He can do through us?
8. Consider the following steps of personal application. Which step do you need to take, to live in line with the truth of 2 Corinthians 12:1-10?
 - **Surrender:** What weakness am I trying to mask or minimize? Instead, acknowledge the weakness and surrender it to God.
 - **Confidence:** How does a big, right view of God's grace and power give me confidence in the midst of my weakness?
 - **Perseverance:** Stay the course faithfully. Even in your weakness (especially in your weakness!), God's grace remains sufficient and the Lord's power can be manifest.
9. **Challenge:** Memorize 2 Corinthians 12:9-10: 9 "...[the Lord] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."



This week's reading
(Mon, Oct 10 - Sun, Oct 16)

MON - 2 Cor. 6-7 & Psalm 139

TUES - 2 Cor. 8 & Psalm 140

WED - 2 Cor. 9 & Psalm 141

THURS - 2 Cor. 10 & Psalm 142

FRI - 2 Cor. 11 & Psalm 143

SAT - 2 Cor. 12 & Psalm 144

SUN - 2 Cor. 13 & Psalm 145