

REVIEW

READ Passages and Key Ideas below

A few key quotes and ideas to reflect on:

- **Theme of 2 Corinthians = Comfort**

- *"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God in Corinth, together with all his holy people throughout Achaia: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."* - 2 Corinthians 1:1-2

- **How To Respond In Times Of Suffering:**

- **1.** Remember **who** God is

- *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort..."* - 2 Corinthians 1:3

- **2.** Remember **what God does for** you

- *"who comforts us in all our troubles... We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many."* - 2 Corinthians 1:4a, 8-11

- **3.** Remember **what God does through** you

- *"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. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort."* - 2 Corinthians 1:4b-7

- Our Goal For Difficult Times: **Suffer Well**

ASK:

- **Now ask just a few simple questions:**

- Why do you think that Paul calls God "the Father of mercies and God of all comfort"? How does the gospel help us to understand the kind of grace, peace, mercy, and comfort that God gives?
- The passage talks a lot about comfort. God comforting us. Us comforting others. What does v.5 tell us is the source of our comfort?
- Where in your life have you felt **"burdened beyond your strength"**? Look at v.9 (esp. the second half). What does Paul believe God used his suffering for? How might this inform the way you approach your own suffering?

PREVIEW Next week we will be in 2 Corinthians 1:12-3:6. Spend some time this week looking at these passages together.

Read your selected passage out loud (if studying in a group, all but one person should keep their Bibles closed for now). **Read slowly.** Line by line if you can. **Read as if for the first time.**

ASK (a guide for this is on the next page)

- **What does it say?** ("Don't be showy....don't be wordy")
- **What do you see?** (picture the scene, the people. What stands out?)
- **What happens next?** Guess! (say, "I wonder...")
- **What do you hear?** (What word comes to mind after reading? Spend some time in silent prayer before answering. *Why do you think God included this here in the Story?*).
- **What do you want to do?** (as a result of what Jesus has done)

PRAY TOGETHER

Worship God for who He is (His attributes revealed in these passages)

Confess the sinful emotions, attitudes, and behaviors that result when we forget who He is

Thank God for what He has done in Christ and your life

Ask God to transform you and to help you apply His word today.

LECTIO VISIO

Christians believe in God's Word and take him at his Word. Yet 21st century Christians have a difficult time seeing God's Word the same way God's people have for centuries: **visually**. That's what this method of Scripture reading is designed to do: help you see the text.

3 INGREDIENTS

3 candles, or a 3 wick candle

1 Passage (preferably narrative, 5-10 verses)

12 or fewer people (Christians or non-Christians)

10 COMMANDMENTS OF LECTIO VISIO

1. No prep! (Lead by asking)
2. Pray simple prayers (tsp prayers: Thank you, Sorry, Please)
3. Shut your Bibles (yup, you read that correctly. Don't worry.)
4. Open your eyes (senses) and picture the scene. Try to get down in the dust of the story.
5. Direct the Film (you as the leader help the biblical scene come alive for those you're studying with)
6. No peeking ahead (1 verse at a time)
7. No rabbit trails (stick to what the text says, not "I feels")
8. Keep telling the story (instead of explaining, WONDER)
9. Keep silence
10. Lead by asking the 5Qs
11. Repeat #2 TSP.

THE 5 QUESTIONS

1. What did it say?
2. What do you see?
3. What happens next? (Guess)
4. What do you hear? (Then/Now)
5. What do you want to do?

A COUPLE EXTRA TIPS FOR LEADERS

Mirror the group. Repeat back what is said and direct them back to the story if things get off track.

Lead Strong. God is actually the one leading the discussion by his Word. Take courage. Have fun. Encourage a bit of playfulness.

Take Notes Here (how did it go? what applications did people give that you can follow up on next week?)