

PRAYER

- Thank God for the grace that is sufficient for us, that His power may be displayed even in our weaknesses.
- Ask God for the courage to rely less on your own capability to follow His Word and to rely more on His grace and power as you follow Him.
- Pray that as you depend more on God, others will see His grace and power through your life and turn to Him.

NOTES



Sufficient Grace

WEEK 2

WARM-UP

- What was a school subject you excelled at? What about the most challenging subject?
- What is one skill you worked hard to develop? How did you grow better at it?
- Was there a time you applied for an organization or group and discovered you needed more experience? Share what happened.

WORD *But he 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **2 CORINTHIANS 12:9***

Paul is one of the most influential apostles and preachers of the gospel. He wrote most of the New Testament books in the Bible, planted a lot of churches, and helped them grow throughout his lifetime. But his life was certainly not easy. He was imprisoned, beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, and put in danger, faced death countless times, and experienced many hardships (2 Corinthians 11:23–28). Rather than focusing on his weakness and suffering, Paul boasted in the grace and power of God that is *sufficient*, because His *power is made perfect in weakness*. Here are three truths that we can hold on to even in the midst of our suffering.

1 | God allows us to go through suffering.

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 2 CORINTHIANS 12:7

Paul was a leader in the early church, and he took that leadership seriously. He admitted that he might be *unskilled in speaking*, but he was not less in knowledge than other teachers (2 Corinthians 11:6). But even Paul was not immune from pride, and he shared that a *thorn in the flesh*, which God would not take away, kept him humble. Do you feel like it would be easier to follow God if you didn't face a particular challenge or suffering? Share your experience.

2 | God's power is made perfect in our weakness.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." . . . 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

Paul earnestly asked God, more than once, to take this thorn away from him. He was focusing on how much easier it would be for him if it were taken away. But he realized that his pain had a purpose: to show that God's power works best and is made complete in our weakness. How have you seen God's grace and power at work in your life?

3 | God's grace is sufficient.

. . . Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

Paul realized that whatever he could or could not do, God's grace was sufficient for him. Paul didn't need to show off his own strength to prove himself to the church in Corinth or to anyone who doubted his ability and calling as an apostle of Christ. Instead, he constantly shared how God's grace and power were made even more evident through his weaknesses. What does 2 Corinthians 12:10 say about when we are strong?

APPLICATION

- Is there an area in your life where you need to depend on yourself less and on God's grace more? How can you receive and rely on God's grace in that area?
- Are you striving to show others your own strength instead of displaying how God's power is evident in your weakness? What's one thing you will do differently starting this week?
- To whom can you share about God's sufficient grace and unlimited power? What can you tell them to encourage them, in spite of what they are going through?