



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE

1/10/2018

BIBLE PASSAGE

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

### 1. KNOW THE CONTEXT

2 Corinthians is the second letter written by the Apostle Paul to the Christians living in the city of Corinth. The main theme of this letter is the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit, particularly in Paul's life and ministry. Those who were opposing Paul were arguing that he had suffered too much to be a true apostle of Christ. Paul spends portions of the letter explaining how suffering can be the means by which God uses to reveal His glory. Because of this, 2 Corinthians is one of Paul's most personal letters. Our passage comes at the very beginning of the letter where Paul has just named himself and given a greeting to the church in Corinth.

### 2. READ THE BIBLE PASSAGE TOGETHER

### 3. SPEND TIME IN OBSERVATION

Which verses, ideas, or characters stuck out to you?  
What questions could come from this passage?

Observation notes:

Questions:

## 4. SPEND TIME IN INTERPRETATION

What did this passage mean to the original audience?

What would it have felt like to be a character in this passage, and who in the passage is the hero/role model (if any)?

What's the main point of this passage?

Questions	Answers
What are some of God's responses to our suffering and troubles in this passage?	He comforts, He gives us the ability to comfort others.
What names does Paul give to God in verse 3 and what do they mean?	Merciful Father: Mercy is when you show compassion or forgiveness to someone that you have the power to punish or harm. Source of all comfort: God is the place where we
Who is the "we" Paul is talking about in verses 6-7?	In verses 6-7 Paul is specifically talking about himself and his team. This is a good spot to refer to some of what we talked about in the context. Paul is saying that God can use his sufferings to support and comfort the Corinthian Christians.

## 5. SPEND TIME IN APPLICATION

What is the "universal truth" God wants to teach us from this passage?

How can we apply the message of this passage to our daily lives?

- This passage seems to assume we will have trouble in life and that God won't necessarily take it away. Based on what you read here and other places, why do you think God sometimes allows pain in our lives?
- Have you ever had someone comfort you who had experienced the same thing that you were experiencing? Was that different for you in any way?
- Do you have examples from your life of times where you were able to share your sufferings or pain with someone else and walk through it together? What was that like?
- If your small group was going to be a place where you could share your pain and receive comfort, what would be some important things your group would need to have to do that well?



## 6. PRAY

Follow-up notes: