

# IN FOCUS

## 2 CORINTHIANS

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

1. **BELONG** – This section isn't filler, but an intentional time to slow down and assess how people are doing in their personal and spiritual lives. Feel free to change the questions, but the point is to truly sit in this moment to allow time and space for encouraging spiritual connection.
  - A. When you were a kid, what types of things made you feel cared for if you were sick or injured?
  - B. What words and actions do you find yourself using when you want to communicate care to others?
  
2. **DISCOVER** – Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11 together in your group and discuss the DBS questions below. Remember, this is meant to be a dialogue, not a monologue. Being a Life Group leader doesn't mean you have to be a subject matter expert on the Bible. It simply means that you are the lead learner. This section is all about discovering the Word together.
  - A. How would you summarize the primary theme of this section of Scripture to someone who hasn't read it before?
  - B. What encouragement do you find in the passage? What's challenging or uncomfortable?
  - C. What truth(s) does this passage teach us about the character of **God**?
    - Can you think of any other passages in Scripture that support this truth?
  - D. What truth(s) does this passage teach us about the character of **mankind**?
    - Can you think of any other passages in Scripture that support this truth?
  - E. How do you think Paul's expression of his suffering relates to his audience in Corinth?
  - F. What pressures is Paul facing that would cause him to despair of his life? (Read 2 Cor 7:5-7 & 11:23-30)
  
3. **GO** – Take time applying the text. Once we hear truth, we are called to live it out. If our groups just sit and talk about information, they won't experience transformation. This section is about self-reflection and helping one another be accountable to live out what we're learning.
  - A. What ways have you and those closest to you experienced God's comfort in times of suffering? How has He communicated His care for you?
  - B. How does the truth that God comforts us in our sufferings help us to trust in Him during difficult circumstances? What does this truth say about the character of God?
  - C. How are we doing as a group when it comes to supporting and encouraging one another through hardship and difficulty?
  - D. Paul found that intense pressure often led him to depend on God even more (v.9). How do you respond to intense pressure in life? What is it about these pressures that push you toward or away from God?
  
4. **PRAYER** – Petition the Lord together as you close out your group time. Under the BELONG section, we focused our prayers on one another. However, this PRAYER section is to be a more outward-focused prayer time.
  - A. Pray for God to build your group into a safe haven for those who may be hurting.
  - B. Pray for your group to be a source of comfort and encouragement to those around them who are experiencing hardship.