

## **SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE**

**Please take a few moments together as a group to read this passage.**

### **2 Corinthians 1:1-11 (NIV)**

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.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, 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.

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.

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## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. How does this passage start and end? Is there something to be taken away from praise and thanks as the bookends?
2. How has suffering or hardship played a role in your spiritual development up to this point?
3. How have you experienced the ministry of presence from God in your life as you have suffered?
4. How have you seen the comfort God has given to you help you to comfort others in your life?
5. How has suffering taught you to give thanks in all things?
6. How can our life group pray for you through the hard things in life?