



Group Time

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page for 64 for directions)

Y / N
 Y / N

LOOK BACK:

Point: *Things “too big for me” reveal the greatness of God.*

- Did God reveal anything during your prayer time?

Question: What is the definition of *faith*? Look up the Merriam-Webster definition. Would you classify *faith* as more passive or aggressive, as active or reactive?



LOOK UP: Watch this week’s video on the 4G web page.

Recap: While the Bible promises many blessings for those who seek after God and obey His commands, it is also clear that this life won’t be easy – for example, read what Jesus promised His first disciples in Matthew 10:16-22. If it was easy, everybody would be doing it, but God loves us enough to allow us to exhibit our faith and perseverance when it’s not easy. It is in these times that we fully experience His power and glory.

But what about when that not easy time is painful and scarring? It then becomes an opportunity to experience and testify of God’s grace, His power, and His purpose for us and others. Yes, pray for the pain to subside and scars to heal, but also trust Him in the moment and allow Him to work His eternal plan through each of us.

LOOK IN: Discussion

- In the context of 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, what is a *thorn*?
- Though it’s not known for certain, some speculate that Paul’s thorn was the guilt he carried from his pre-conversion persecution of Christians (leading to many of their deaths). What are some “*thorns*” that people wrestle with today?
- How have you, or others you’ve known, used something painful (a thorn) to minister to others?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Life’s pain points us to God’s power.*

Often Your Greatest Pain Points To Your Greatest Need

- Name a few of your thorns. Are they a distraction from God’s grace or do they help you focus on God’s grace? How so?

(To receive help in accepting God’s grace in your pain, contact our staff or office today.)

- How can you use your experience as a testimony of God’s grace?

- How can you use your experience to help others work through the pain and heal the scars of their thorns?
