

Persevering Grace Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What's the farthest you've ever walked in one day?
2. Are you more of a morning person or a night person?

Read the following passage: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11.

Paul faced incredible obstacles as he labored to bring the Gospel to men and women around the Roman Empire. As courageous as he was, he eventually encountered hardships “far beyond [his] ability to endure, so that [he] despaired of life itself.” By God’s grace, Paul survived and persevered in his mission. Because of this perseverance, we are still feeling the impact of his life today.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What is one area in your life in which you have demonstrated perseverance? Why do you think you have been able to persevere in this area?
2. How do we know when it's time to move on from a relationship, a job, an idea, or some other significant thing in our lives?
3. Look again at 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. What are some of the ways God “redeemed” Paul’s pain and used it for his benefit and the benefit of others? Can you think of any painful experiences in your life that God has ultimately used for your benefit or the benefit of others? Explain.
4. What are some things we can do to help us persevere when we are going through a particularly difficult season of life?
5. Read Psalm 13. Do you think verses 1 through 4 express a lack of faith? Why or why not? Why do you think God chose to give us so many passages like Psalm 13 in the psalms? Have you ever expressed anger, frustration, sorrow, or despair to God in prayer? Are you comfortable doing this? What might result if we never express feelings like these to God?
6. Read Galatians 6:9. Fruitfulness often requires that we keep going after experiencing failure. How would you rate your ability to persevere after failure?
7. Read Luke 11:2-4. Why do you think Jesus included a prayer for forgiveness in the model prayer he taught his disciples? Do you regularly confess your sins to God and ask for forgiveness? Why is this important for perseverance?
8. What is one area of your life in which you would like to become more persevering? Explain.

Pray