

When God...

Key Text: 2 Corinthians 12:7b–10

Icebreaker: Imagine a God you could control. What would you like/dislike about him?

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a time when God said “no” to your prayers. Did it cause you to question his existence? Did it cause you to “fill the gap” with something other than the grace of God?
2. When God said “no” to you, did you submit to his will or struggle to deal with the situation in your own strength? What was the result of your choice?
3. Read verses 6–9. What does the fact that God didn’t remove Paul’s “thorn”, but chose to use Paul’s weakness to demonstrate his own power tell you about God’s priorities?
4. How could this story of Paul’s “thorn” strengthen your faith when God seems inattentive, uncooperative and/or late?
5. Read verse 10. How does the apostle Paul’s call to delight in weakness challenge the values and assumptions of the culture we live in?

Next Steps:

While we have permission to ask God to remove our thorns, God has the right to say “no” to our requests. What do you do when God chooses to showcase his power on the stage of your weakness? Take “no” for an answer. When you do, God gives you something in return: his sustaining grace. Let’s live in that grace.

Prayer Requests:

