

The Heart of the Matter

12. When have you been the recipient of the kind of mercy and comfort that Paul describes in this passage?

13. Paul found that intense pressures led him to depend on God all the more (V9). How do you respond to intense pressure? Do they deepen your walk with God or drive you away from Him?

14. Whom do you know who under intense pressure? How is God directing you to pray for them right now?

15. In your life how is Jesus Christ the Father of mercies? The God of all comfort? The God of hope?

Praises and Prayer Requests:



Life Group Study Guide

EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE Dealing with Despair 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 For the Week of April 5, 2020

Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. When you were hurt or became sick as a child what was the expression of care that you received that comforted you the most?
3. Was there ever a time in your life that you thought it was all over and it felt as though you were facing the end?

Digging Deeper

4. In the first 2 verses of 2 Corinthians how does Paul open his letter to this troubled church that he loves so much? What does he say about himself? Who is with him? What does Paul want for them?

5. Why is it appropriate that Paul begin this letter with praising God in verse 3? What does Paul mean by suggesting that Jesus Christ is the Father of all mercies/compassion? In what ways did Jesus demonstrate His compassion?

6. How is God the God of all comfort? In what ways does God comfort His children who put their faith in Him?

7. According to verse 5 what is the relationship between God's ability to comfort us and our ability to comfort others?

8. How are Paul's sufferings and Christ's sufferings related to the sufferings of the Corinthians? In what way?

9. What pressures was Paul facing that would cause him to despair even of life? (7:5-7; Acts 19:23-41)

10. According to verse 9 how did all that Paul was facing cause him to lean all the more on God? What ultimate hope did Paul have about what God could accomplish?

11. How are hope, prayer, and praise all brought together in verses 10-11? Why is this so important and significant for every church?