

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **May 29, 2022** Family Theme | **Strength in Christ**
Study Text | **2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

Objective: Family members choose to be content when facing difficulty, knowing God will give them the grace and strength to get through it and use it for His glory and their good.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson, like the previous two, is set in AD 56 and was written by the apostle Paul toward the end of his third missionary trip. Here he instructed the Corinthian believers that Christ's strength is best shown through our weakness.

Bible Basics: Review John 3:16-17 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how God may use difficulty for our good, and that He has promised to give us the grace and strength we need for every situation.



Key Truth: Believers Exalt God Rather Than Themselves (2 Corinthians 12:1-6)

Paul had many reasons to boast about his life and ministry experiences. He was careful, however, not to use these experiences to brag about himself. Rather, he was intentional in turning the focus toward Christ. Paul spoke in third person about an experience he had by asserting he knew about a man who was given a glimpse of Heaven. He could have actually been taken into Heaven and then returned to earth, or the experience may have strictly been a spiritual one. Paul asserted that if there were to be any boasting, he wished it to be in regard to his weaknesses. The only possible reason for boasting on Paul's part, and ours, is the sufficiency of Christ, and not an experience or ability.



Key Truth: God May Use Difficulty to Keep Us Humble and Dependent on Him (2 Corinthians 12:7)

Paul's vision of Heaven was great, but if not kept in perspective, it could have ruined his earthly ministry. Because God knows our nature and inclination toward pride, He often allows great burdens and great blessings to be mixed in the kettle of our lives. God allowed what Paul called a thorn in his flesh, a *messenger of Satan* to buffet him and keep him humble and reliant upon God. Many scholars believe it was some sort of physical ailment. Paul mentioned twice that this "thorn" was given to him to keep him from becoming conceited or exalted in his own mind. While God may not cause bad things to happen, He does permit them and when He does, they can, and will, accomplish good for the believer. God's grace is sufficient to see us through them.



Key Truth: God Provides Us Grace and Strength for Whatever We Face (2 Corinthians 12:8-10)

These experiences for Paul were certainly heartrending and painful. He pleaded with the Lord three times that this difficulty would be taken away from him. In spite of Paul's pleading, the Lord chose to permit this *messenger* to continue. Although God did not remove the struggle, He gave grace — unmerited kindness and favor that would be sufficient. Further, through Paul's weaknesses in the experiences, God's power would shine through. This power, and not his own, provided Paul the opportunity to boast in his weaknesses. God gave him the grace he needed to endure the trial.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- Why is it important to exalt Christ rather than self?
- What are some examples of how God uses difficulty to work in our lives?
- How can we learn to be content while facing trials and difficulty?
- What does it mean that God's power is made perfect in our weakness?
- What does it mean that God's grace is sufficient for us?
- **Why do we need God's strength rather than just our own?**
- **In what situation do you need to be content this week, trusting that God will give you the grace and strength you need?**
- **What verses from the Bible give you strength when facing difficult times?**

Everyday Extras

On chore day, assign your child a task that is beyond his or her ability to do alone. (This will vary with the child's age, but some suggestions would be cleaning out the garage, wiping down the blinds, washing the dog, scrubbing the patio, etc.) Allow your child to work independently for a while, insisting that he or she must find solutions to do the best job possible. Before your child gets too frustrated, join in to help. Talk together about the way the Holy Spirit does that for us. We cannot do what we need to do in our own strength; we must have His help. We can count on Him to enable us to do what we cannot do on our own.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child heard the true story of when Jesus healed a man who could not hear nor speak clearly. The man's friends brought him to Jesus to be healed. When Jesus put His fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with His fingers, the man was able to hear and speak. Only **Jesus Heals** in such unusual ways.