

## Small Group Questions

February 21, 2021

Series: The Art of Being Unordinary

Message: "In It To \_\_\_\_\_"

This series will examine various passages within the book of II Corinthians. It was written in a difficult time in the ministry of Paul and offers hope and encouragement for difficult days. As we continue to navigate the COVID pandemic, the desired outcome of this study is confidence in God in days such as this. The repeated direction given throughout the letter focuses on Jesus and serving in His name. In difficult days, the temptation exists to focus on the issues at hand rather than the God who is over all things.

Thank you for keeping your group going through virtual means. We certainly prefer in-person ministry but technology provides the opportunity to remain connected. It may also provide hope to realize that Paul's letter to the Corinthian church was ministry done at a distance. Paul was not present in person but he did minister to the people about whom he cared. We can do the same in these days. Thank you for your ongoing ministry!

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. When was the last time you felt in danger? Would you put yourself into that place again?
2. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would you change?

(Questions based on the primary texts)

Read II Corinthians 11:16-12:10.

3. False teachers have come to Corinth adding the Law to the message of the gospel found in Jesus. How does Paul's "boasting" about his weaknesses parody the big claims made by people claiming spiritual superiority?
4. What does Paul's suffering add to his credibility? In our day, do we connect credibility with weakness/suffering?
5. Paul (and Jesus) were misunderstood when it came to their gentleness. In what ways can we confuse aggression with leadership or gentleness with weakness?
6. If this passage were Paul's resume, would any churches hire him? Why or why not?
7. How has Paul's "thorn" affected his life? What does it mean that God's grace was sufficient for him versus having his "thorn" taken away?
8. What is it like to pray earnestly for something to change and not see that answered? What does Paul's experience with his unanswered prayer help us to learn in those moments?