

WEEK 1 | ONE PARADOX

Date: August 10, 2025

Verses: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11



SERIES INSIGHT

One Paradox is a walk through the book of 2nd Corinthians and the Paradox of the Cross. It leads us to live lives by Faith and not by sight. It challenges us to live according to what Jesus values, which is in contrast to the values of today's world. The question we'll wrestle with is this: what does the Cross mean to you?

ICEBREAKER

- What's your go-to comfort food?
- If you had the chance to go back in time for 24 hours, where and when would you go?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Review the Message.** Looking back at your notes and upon reflecting on this weekend's message, what was your one takeaway from Sunday?
2. How can the Cross — a symbol of suffering and death — be the ultimate expression of love and victory?
3. Reflect on a current challenge or area of suffering in your life. How might God be using that very struggle to reveal His love, strengthen your faith, or bring about something redemptive? This week, choose one way to respond in love or faith in the midst of that challenge.
4. Why do you think God allows us to experience suffering, especially when we're trying to live faithfully?
5. Read verses 4–6 again and consider how your hardships might prepare you to serve others. Ask: "Who in my circle is going through something similar?" Offer to listen, pray, or simply be present for them.
6. Why did Jesus have to lose His life in order to bring us life? What does that teach us about true discipleship?
7. Identify one area where you're tempted to hold onto control, comfort, or personal gain. What would it look like to "take up your cross" and follow Jesus in that area this week — choosing surrender over self?
8. What role does prayer play in supporting others who are suffering (v.11)?
9. Spend time as a group writing down prayer requests for people in crisis. Commit to praying throughout the week, and send encouraging messages or Scripture to those individuals. Consider keeping a shared prayer journal or chat for updates.

PRAYER

Share requests and celebrate praise reports. Take time for your group to pray for however long is needed.

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

King Jesus,

We pray for an outpouring for the presence of God in: our heart, our home, our church, our city.

That may result in an awakening that leads to transformation of: our heart, our home, our church, our city.



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