

MESSAGE NOTES:

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

1. The Need for Comfort

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself." (2 Cor 1:8)

Troubles

Great Pressure

Despaired

2. The Resource for Comfort

Mercies - "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort" (2 Cor 1:3)

Comfort - "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort" (2 Cor 1:3)

Delivers - "He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us" (2 Cor 1:10)

3. The Responsibility of Comfort

Look for a Ministry - "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort" (2 Cor 1:3)

Listen for a Message - "Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead." (2 Cor 1:9)

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (*Optional*):

- What is your favorite comfort food?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **2 Corinthians 1: 1-11**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. What do you know about the apostle Paul and his colleague, Timothy, who informs this letter to the Corinthian church?
3. Which words or phrases are repeated in this passage? Define those words and discuss similarities and differences. Can you think of a story from Jesus's life on earth that illustrates this passage?
4. What is significant about the fact that this letter was inspired by a sense of personal suffering for Paul? Share situations in your own life when painful experiences have become fruitful.
5. In **verse 5** Paul is saying that some kind of solidarity exists between Christ and His people through suffering and comfort. In what ways have you experienced this solidarity in the church?
6. What does it look like for the follower of Christ to "Look Up" in a season of trouble, suffering, or discomfort?
7. Read **verses 10-11** again and discuss why it makes a difference that God will deliver us in the end.

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Read aloud **Psalms 86** as a prayer together.