



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF MAY 12, 2024 | MOTHER'S DAY 2024

WARM-UP QUESTION

Where did you see God in your life this week?

DISCUSS

Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read Ephesians 2:1-5

- What do you notice about this passage? What sticks out to you?
- We see God's mercy in this passage – look up a definition of mercy
- What's the difference between mercy and grace? What's the difference between God's mercy and God's grace? How do you see God's grace displayed in your life? How do you see God's mercy displayed in your life?
- Read verse 3 again. What does this tell us about our human nature compared with God's character? What does this say about our separation from God? Why are we separated from God?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

- Why do you think Paul begins with praise in this passage?
- The word for comfort in this passage in the original language is paraklésis (par-ak'-lay-sis), which means "to come alongside and help". It can also mean encouragement, strengthening, solace, or consolation. How does looking at that definition enhance the meaning of this passage? What does that tell you about God's character?
- How have you experienced God's comfort? Are there things that keep you from experiencing God's comfort?
- How has experiencing God's comfort in your own life impacted the way you comfort others?
- How does the suffering and comfort that we endure help us help others?
- What does suffering produce in us? How do you stay strong in suffering? Where do you see God in your suffering or difficult seasons in your life?

Read 2 Peter 3:8-9

- Where do you see hope in these verses? Where do you see help in these verses?
- How does the concept of God's timing, as described in these verses, challenge or affirm your understanding of patience? Reflecting on the phrase "a day is like a thousand years" in verse 8, how does this perspective influence our perception of time and urgency in our lives?



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- In what ways do you find comfort or reassurance in the idea that God desires no one to perish? Discuss the implications of God's patience and desire for repentance in the context of our relationships with others. How does this impact our approach to forgiveness and reconciliation?
- How can we guard against becoming disillusioned or impatient in our faith journey? What are the dangers of forgetting God's timing? What keeps you from being patient?
- Share some examples of people who have demonstrated patience during difficult times, either from your own life or someone close to you? What lessons have you learned from their experiences?
- How does our culture's emphasis on instant gratification and quick results affect our ability to wait patiently for God's timing and purposes to unfold in our lives?

RESPOND

- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? When will you do it?
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals or areas of struggle that came up in your discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is, and ask Him to help you apply what He's prompting you to do this week.