

THE ROAD AHEAD:

CHOICES WE ALL FACE ALONG THE PATH OF LIFE

It can be tempting to live in denial when things aren't going well, but it comes at a cost. Owning up to a broken plan opens the door for God and others to help with whatever is next.

WEEK TWO

FACE THE FACTS

OPEN When it comes to setbacks, are you more of a glass half-empty or a glass half-full person? Do you typically see setbacks as opportunities?

READ 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

7 or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

DISCUSS

- Paul describes a "thorn in the flesh" as a source of weakness but also mentions God's grace being sufficient. How can weakness sometimes become an opportunity to experience God's strength in our lives?
- Can you think of a time when facing a challenge or difficulty brought you closer to God? How can we cultivate a spirit of joy and perseverance amidst struggles?

WATCH Part Two: Face the Facts

NOTES				

DISCUSS

- 1. Did anything about the story in the video resonate with you? If so, what?
- 2. What makes it difficult for men to admit something is wrong, particularly when they have something to do with it?
- 3. Read **2 Corinthians 12:7–10** aloud. Do any of the phrases in that passage stand out to you? Which phrase most reflects what you want more of in your life? Why?
- 4. Think back to when you had to admit you had been living in denial. What caused you to admit something was wrong finally? What happened once you admitted what was happening?
- 5. Living with a mask of denial can be isolating. How can living authentically, even with our flaws, foster deeper connections with others?

- 6. Is there a difficult decision you need to make now? If so, what is it? Is any part of you living in denial, causing a cloudy decision-making process? Are people closest to you telling you something you're refusing to believe? What do you need to admit?
- 7. The passage mentions the "thorn" as a way to prevent pride. Can you think of a time when facing a challenge helped you cultivate humility?
- 8. Is there a current "thorn in your flesh"? How can you approach this challenge with a view toward spiritual growth?

MEMORIZE

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2 Corinthians 12:9-10

PRAY

Pray for one another.