



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?

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?
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MEMORIZE

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2 Corinthians 12:9-10

PRAY

- Pray for one another.