

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

The Comfort that Suffering Can Bring

PAUL WROTE THIS LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN CORINTH, RIGHTLY IDENTIFYING HIS ROLE
AS AN _____ AND THEIR IDENTITY AS _____. (1:1-2)

NOTES

TABLE TALK: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU THAT THE BIBLE CALLS YOU A
SAINT? SHOULD THAT HAVE AN IMPACT ON HOW WE VIEW OURSELVES?

God shows up in our _____, so that we can show up
in the _____ of others. There is purpose in our
_____. (1:3-7)

NOTES

TABLE TALK: WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC WAYS THAT GOD HAS SHOWN UP
FOR YOU DURING DIFFICULT TIMES IN YOUR LIFE? HOW CAN YOU SHOW UP FOR
SOMEONE ELSE?

GOD ALLOWS MOMENTS THAT ARE BEYOND OUR ABILITY TO HANDLE TO DRAW US AWAY
FROM _____ AND TOWARDS _____. (1:8-11)

NOTES

TABLE TALK: HAVE YOU HAD AN EXPERIENCE THAT YOU FELT LIKE IT WAS
MORE THAN YOU COULD HANDLE? DID THAT PUSH YOU CLOSER TO GOD OR DRAW
YOU FATHER FROM HIM? IN WHAT WAY?

This life is by no means easy. Hardship is a reality of existence this side of Heaven, and severe hardship will not escape any one of us. The exceptional news for those who know Christ is that they also know the God of all comfort who shows up every time. This is a gift meant to not only be personally treasured, but also to be shared. Every time we experience hardship we gain unique insight into the hardship of others experiencing the same sorts of things.

Because God showed up for us, we can show up for each other. In fact, this was part of God's purpose in allowing us to experience pain. These painful experiences also help us to trust our God more completely as we find experience His faithfulness. While it is not the mode we might choose for deepening relationship, it is a most effective way to teach us the dependent faith that we long for and were re-made for.