

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

GOD HAS MADE A GREAT MANY PROMISES. THEY ARE ALL "YES" BECAUSE OF WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE. SO THROUGH CHRIST WE SAY "AMEN." WE WANT GOD TO RECEIVE GLORY. – 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

PROMISE OF STRENGTH

GOD IS OUR REFUGE

(make a house over your head with your hands)

AND STRENGTH.

(show strong muscles)

A VERY PRESENT HELP

(bring both hands to your heart)

IN TROUBLE.

(make a worried face and place hands on cheeks)

STORY: PAUL'S THORN – 2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

DISCUSS:

READ THE BIBLE STORY FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 12 OR FROM YOUR FAVORITE STORY BIBLE. HAVE YOUR KIDS RETELL THE STORY IN THEIR OWN WORDS & ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TOGETHER.

In this passage, Paul shares about a hard struggle in his life that he calls a "thorn." We do not know exactly what it was, but we do know that it caused him pain and weakness. Paul asked God to take it away, but God answered by reminding Paul that His grace was enough and that His power is made perfect in weakness. This story helps us see that even when life is hard, God is with us and gives us the strength we need.

1. What do you think Paul meant when he talked about his "thorn"?
2. Why do you think Paul wanted God to take it away?
3. How did God answer Paul, and what does that teach us about Him?
4. What does it mean that God's power is made perfect in weakness?
5. What is one way our family can trust God's strength this week when we feel weak?

BIG IDEA: GOD'S POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS

DID YOU KNOW...?

Paul's "thorn" is not explained in the Bible, so we do not know exactly what it was. It may have been a sickness, a pain, a struggle, or something else that made life hard for him. But that is actually helpful for us, because it means kids and grown-ups can all relate to Paul in different ways. We all have hard things, and this story reminds us that God stays with us through them.

SOMETHING TO NOTE!

This passage is a helpful reminder that God's grace does not always remove suffering, but it does sustain His people in the middle of it. Paul prayed for relief, and God answered him, though not in the way Paul first wanted. The Lord told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." That means weakness is not an obstacle to God's work. In many cases, it is the very place where God most clearly shows His strength.

This is important for helping children build a faithful theology of hardship. We do not want kids to believe that trusting God means life will always get easier. Instead, we want them to see that God is present, good, and powerful even when prayers are not answered the way we hoped. The Christian life is not about appearing strong on our own. It is about depending on Christ. Through our weakness, God teaches humility, trust, perseverance, and deeper reliance on His grace.

PROMISES

PRAYER PROMPT:

Before you pray, have each family member name one area where they feel weak right now. It could be something like fear, sadness, patience, school, friendship struggles, or needing help obeying God.