

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

*GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR PAIN*

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Not Shaken — Week 3

**ICEBREAKER:** Do you think that religion is an emotional crutch for some people. Why or why not?

**OVERVIEW:** The ultimate goal of Christians is not to avoid affliction, but to not be shaken by affliction. One of the things that can help us to not be shaken is to understand God's plan for pain. And one of the best places to study God's plan for pain is in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. In this study we will go deeper with Paul's experience of suffering and learn more about God's plan for our pain.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What are some reasons that God allows people to suffer?
3. Are you facing a trial right now? Explain.
4. Has God ever used pain or hardship for your benefit? Explain.
5. Read Romans 5:3-5.
  - a. What are examples of affliction/suffering?
  - b. How does affliction produce endurance?

- c. How does endurance produce proven character?
  - d. How does proven character produce hope?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and refer to the sermon.
  - a. What was Paul's thorn in the flesh?
  - b. What did Paul do about the thorn?
  - c. Why did God give Paul the thorn?
  - d. Why didn't God answer Paul's prayer?
  - e. What did God mean by "my grace is sufficient for you"?
  - f. What did God mean by "My pain is perfected in weakness"?
  - g. How can you apply this passage to your life in times of difficulty?

**The Last Word:** "The effect of my troubles depends not on the nature of the troubles themselves but on how I receive them." Elizabeth Elliot

