

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"LAUNDRY LIST OF SUFFERING: PAUL" JULY 31 & AUGUST 1

SERIES OVERVIEW:

You are NOT disqualified from real life with God, even though life is messy. Sometimes we fall into the trap of thinking we are beyond hope when we find ourselves battling the same sins and temptations. Having a clear understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus means that we are forgiven, walking in grace and NOT perfect. We are a work in progress, and so are the people around us. As we learn to know God better and better, He equips us with everything we need to live in His will and be pleasing in His sight. (Hebrews 13:21)

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

OPENING PRAYER:

About 2 minutes

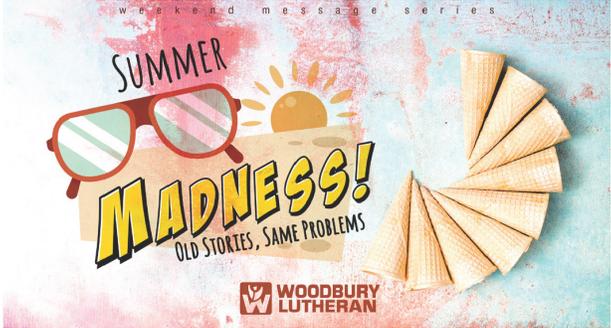
Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA:

About 1 minute to read

The apostle Paul faced suffering and many trials in life. Jesus tells us here on earth you will have many trials, but to take heart because He has overcome the world. (John 16:33) Sometimes we confuse following Jesus with Karma. It may seem to us that God has abandoned us when the trials and suffering don't stop. However God has consistently said, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." (Deut 31:6-8)



July 31 & August 1, 2021

I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. - 2 Corinthians 11:27 NLT

Reflect 

Read the full passage in your Bible - 2 Corinthians 11:21b-27.
What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might God be calling you to repent of or realign in your life?

What would acting upon this or obeying God look like? Be curious...and then do it.

DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

3

INTRO QUESTION:

About 10 minutes

Share a high and a low since the group last met. How do you see God at work in these circumstances?

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

Read the entire scripture passage aloud as a group and discuss the questions on the card above. Use the **Discussion Help sidebar** to encourage deeper discussion.

What sufferings of Paul do you see listed here? How do you think God showed up for him in the midst of these sufferings?

Have different individuals look up the following passages and read them aloud for the group: John 16:33, Deuteronomy 31:6-8, James 1:2, 2 Cor 4:16-18, 2 Cor 12:7-10, Romans 5:1-5, and Romans 8:18-27. Summarize the passages above in your own words. What do you think God is saying to you about Himself and about suffering?

5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 15 minutes

Read this section aloud. Invite the group to journal right now for about 5 minutes. (Set a timer.) Then break into pairs and discuss for 8 minutes (4 minutes each) the key times the Lord has been faithful to you.

TAKE IT DEEPER



WORSHIP



GROW



SERVE



REACH

Live It Out

Identify the battles from your past and where the Lord has proven Himself faithful to you. Write these down on a slip of paper or in your journal, entering into a time of praise and worship, declaring the goodness of the Lord and how He has been faithful to you. Share with your small group or a trusted friend, testifying of God's powerful presence in your life.

Pray

Share with God, being honest about ways you've experienced suffering. Maybe there have been times where you felt confused or abandoned. Share those and their impact.

Ask God to open your eyes to see his faithfulness through the storms of life.

Thank God for his promises to fight your battles. Thank him that he has equipped you with the tools to fight, to stand strong in his name and power.

6

CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 5 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a moment of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

Close with a time of popcorn prayer.