



Introduction

Is it possible to have a better year this year? How do you make that happen?

Discussion Questions

1. On a scale of 1-10, how was last year?
2. If you had to choose one word that captured the previous year, what would it be? What is one word that hopefully signifies this new year?

For groups that want to stay light ...

3. Finish this sentence: *If these two things happened this year, it would be a better year...*
4. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Do you have a “thorn in your flesh”? What is your weakness?
5. Does it make sense to boast about your weakness? How can embracing your weakness actually lead to a better year?
6. “Admit your weakness. Ask for help. Accept it daily.” Who can you connect with this week to ensure that you are following through?

For groups that want to dive in ...

3. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What do you think was Paul’s “thorn in his flesh”? More importantly, why is this guy being so public about a personal weakness?
4. Do you have a “thorn in your flesh”? What is your weakness?
5. Paul repeatedly asked God to take away his weakness. How did God respond? Does God’s response seem satisfying to you? What is God talking about when he says “my power works best in weakness”?
6. The challenge for all of us this year is to rely more on God. What does that practically look like on a daily basis for you?

Moving Forward

Fast forward six months from now. Wouldn’t it be great to say that this year has been *muuuuch* better than last year? There are lots of different strategies to make that a reality. But God invites us to be consistent in our faith in Him to yield actual results. That would require us to trust God with our weaknesses instead of trying to overcome them by ourselves. It’s what the apostle Paul means when he says, “when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Focus

Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.¹⁰ That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10