



GOD IS MORE THAN
Enough

College Group Guide





PREPARATION

■ STUDY

Spend the week studying 2 Corinthians 12:7–10.

■ LANDING POINT

Christ shows His strength through my weakness.



INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

A CONFLICT OF IDEAS

How can a good God allow human suffering? This question, more than any other, has caused many to doubt God's character or refuse to believe in Him altogether. Many can't imagine a reality in which a good God would allow good people to suffer. These two ideas—God's goodness and human suffering—don't seem compatible.

The Bible doesn't ignore this tension. It also doesn't ignore the truth that God's ways are not like ours. His perspective on suffering is very different from ours. The apostle Paul learned this lesson when he experienced a thorn in his flesh. He learned to embrace his suffering as an act of grace from a good God who loved him.

We all suffer in this life in one way or another. It's the painful reality of being human and living in a fallen world full of broken people. We have a choice with suffering. We can either resent God and be bitter about our pain and suffering, or trust that God is good and His grace is enough for us in our difficulty.

Q: *Have one group or person defend the idea that God can be both good and allow human suffering, and another group or person takes the opposite position.*

WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG

We've seen the quote a thousand times: "Whatever doesn't kill me makes me stronger." It sounds good at first. It's inspiring and heroic. But on closer review, it simply doesn't hold up. It ignores the truth that we are weak and incapable in our own strength—a truth the Bible states repeatedly.

We need someone else to be strong for us. Being a Christian means admitting that, yes, you are weak. You can't do enough to be as strong as you need to be in this life. The gospel tells us that Christ was—and is—strong for us. In every moment of every day, Christ wants to be strong for you. His grace is sufficient for you when you admit that you need Him and you can't do this life on your own. Like Paul, you can say, "When I am weak, then I am strong."



QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions as a group. Remember to be respectful by not talking down to or over others.

READ: *2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Why is conceit (or pride) a dangerous thing? What are some ways we might be unknowingly cultivating pride in our lives?*

Q: *How is Paul's view on suffering different than most people's?*

Q: *Why is it difficult to admit weakness?*

Q: *How would you be different around your friends and classmates if you actually boasted in your weakness?*

End in prayer.