





### For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

#### Check-in

##### Last Week's Action Step

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

#### Introduction

We all face difficulties in life – situations and circumstances that make us wonder if there is any good that could come out of it. Even the characters from the Bible had no shortage of adversity in their lives, but with the right perspective they were able to lean into God's promises and seek His purpose.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What would you consider to be the most difficult situation you have ever faced? What was your general attitude during that time? How did it affect your behavior or shape your faith?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 12:6-10 and Romans 8:28-29. How do you think Paul was able to endure his hardship but boast and delight in it?

Think back to when you were facing your most difficult situation. If you believe God could have removed "your thorn," but chose not to, what character trait of Christ might He have been trying to develop in you?

3. Read Romans 8:16-18. Do you know someone who has suffered but approached it as a gift from God? How did their example affect you?

### Small Group Questions Continued

4. You have the option of changing your perspective in order to view difficult circumstances as a gift from God – to lean into His promises and seek His purpose. What are some practical steps you can begin to do when you are in the middle of adversity that will remind you to take the proper perspective? What ways can this group begin to step in to help each other when difficulties arise? What ways could you step in to help ease someone else's pain?

#### Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I'm accountable for \_\_\_\_\_, and their action steps are

\_\_\_\_\_

My memory verse is \_\_\_\_\_

This coming week, I'm praying for:

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Outreach: Groups in Action

##### OUR CHURCH

Our children's ministry is in need of volunteers for the 11:15am service at all 3 campuses. We also need subs when our regular volunteers are gone or on vacation. Email Dallas Havens if you are interested or for more information at [dhavens@eclife.org](mailto:dhavens@eclife.org).

##### OUR COMMUNITY

In honor of those who have served to protect our freedom, and as we approach Independence Day, write a letter to a soldier who is currently serving or a veteran who has previously served. These letters could be delivered to a soldier or veteran you know or can be dropped off at the Outreach or Information counters at each campus to be mailed together as a church.

##### OUR WORLD

Thank you for praying for the Emmanuel team that just returned from Colombia. Continue to pray for Exodo church, our mission partner serving the communities in and around Cartagena, Colombia.