

PART SIX:

PAUL AND THE THORN

Connect Group Discussion Guide
Sunday, September 27, 2026

RESTORATIONLIFE CHURCH

PAUL AND THE THORN

2 Corinthians 12:1–10; Jeremiah 29:11, 31:3; Deuteronomy 31:8; Isaiah 43:25; Colossians 1:13–14, 2:13–14; 1 John 1:9; Exodus 15:26; Isaiah 53:5; Psalm 103:2–3

ICE BREAKER

What is the first thing you notice about someone when you first meet?

GOING DEEPER

1) In 2 Corinthians 12:1-6, Paul tells of a powerful heavenly encounter with God. If you have had a "mountaintop experience" with God, share the story of your experience.

2) Mountaintop encounters with God are wonderful, but why is it important to remember that we don't live in those mountaintop experiences?

3) Paul had a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, that he had asked God to remove, but God had said no to his request. We also have "thorn experiences" in our lives. Why is it so important to decide whose voice you will listen to in those moments?

4) Have you ever experienced the unrelenting attack of the enemy trying to tell you something that was contrary to what God was trying to say to you? How did you handle it?

5) How might a thorn experience draw a person closer to God than a mountaintop experience?

6) If a person is going through a thorn experience and they're trying to listen to what God says rather than what the devil says, how can they discover what God might be saying about their situation?

GOD'S TRUTH TO REMEMBER

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 (NIV) - But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(List prayer requests here so you can pray for them all week long.)

SERMON NOTES