

SERIES DISCUSSION GUIDE



IN MY FEELS
CHAD BRUEGMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

If you would like to watch the message, visit rpc.me/messages.

LEADER

You go first:

- Introduce yourself.
- How long have you been attending RPC?
- Describe your family.

Have everyone introduce themselves using the same questions.

ICEBREAKER

- Briefly share one thing you are most looking forward to this fall.
- "Are you ready for some football"...if you enjoy watching football, what team are you cheering on this season?

MESSAGE RECAP

This week's message is a continuation of our series on emotions. One of the things God asks us to steward on this side of heaven is all of the crazy emotions we feel each and every day. God cares for us, we are seen, heard and loved by Him. He also asks us to show kindness and compassion for other people as everyone is fighting a battle that we may not fully understand or know about.

MAIN POINTS

- Show kindness and compassion for others as you may not fully understand or even be aware of the battle they are fighting or what they are going through.

- God is not the author of “anything” that torments us. In God's sovereignty, He does allow things to continue that are not always the best for us. He doesn't always take away the thorn of the flesh.
- God allows challenges or weaknesses to remain in our lives to help us rely more on His strength rather than our own, to cultivate humility, and to grow in faith and perseverance. These challenges often shape our character and deepen our dependence on Him, ultimately bringing us closer to His purpose for our lives.

READ

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

QUESTIONS

- Paul, who witnessed incredible things from God that he could boast about, chooses not to. According to this passage, what benefit is there in boasting? (None. In verse 1, Paul says there is nothing to be gained from boasting).
- Who is the “man in Christ” mentioned in verse 2? (Paul is talking about himself and the personal experience he had with God)
- In verse 8, how did Paul respond to the “thorn of his flesh?” (He prayed to the Lord earnestly three times that it would leave him. Three times he pleaded with God.)
- How did God respond to Paul's prayers to remove “the thorn of his flesh?” (Verse 9, God did not remove the thorn but instead says “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”)
- Chad pointed out that it's helpful the scripture doesn't specify what Paul's "thorn in the flesh" was, allowing us to relate it to our own struggles. What does Paul say was the purpose of his thorn in the flesh? (So that the power of Christ may dwell in him and Christ's strength would move on behalf of his weaknesses.)
- What happens when we talk about our weaknesses? (We don't let shame have the final word. Like Paul we will boast in our weakness, for through God's power, when we are weak, then we are strong. We can share how God has helped us overcome our weaknesses. When we open up about our struggles and tell our stories, we discover we're not alone, and others can be encouraged and uplifted by what we share.)
- Chad brought a rose on the stage, why do roses have thorns? (To keep animals that want to eat plants from eating this rose.) Why didn't God remove Paul's thorn in the flesh? (To keep Paul from being arrogant, conceited, and prideful with the inexpressible revelations he had experienced. To help Paul be a leader of humility having compassion, not judgment.)
- What might be some reasons God allows challenges or weaknesses to remain in our lives, as He did with Paul's thorn in the flesh? (The thorn of flesh changes your heart and builds character, then character develops perseverance and perseverance develops hope and hope does not disappointment. Read James 1:2-4, ²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.)

APPLICATION QUESTION

- What is one “a-ha” you will take from the weekend message and our discussion?

- How will you apply the message to your life this week?

CLOSE IN PRAYER: your closing prayer could include the following:

1. *Gratitude.* Thank you, Lord, for giving us this time together to study Your Word.
2. *Acknowledgment of "a-ha" moments.* We are so grateful for the new awareness and insights you gave us today.
3. *Request for help throughout the week.* As we go back to our homes, families, and workplaces, please remind us of what we've learned today and give us the courage and strength to obey whatever You are calling us to do. Amen.

LEADERS: Please take attendance and follow up with anyone who did not attend this week. Grab your group and come together for a night of **Worship & Prayer on Thursday, September 19th at 7pm.**