

Comfort in Suffering

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how the previous study influenced you since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

D Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply your previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

H Hear the Word

Think of a time when you suffered in a difficult situation. How did others comfort you? In Paul's letter to the suffering believers in Corinth, he gives praise to the God of all comfort and encourages them to comfort each other. What can we learn from Paul's perspective on comfort and suffering?

[Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.](#)

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

Discuss:

- Based on this passage, what can be some positive outcomes of suffering?
- How does Paul describe God and Jesus in this passage? What impact do you think this had on Paul's attitude towards suffering and distress?
- In verse 4 Paul mentions that, because of his troubles, he is able to comfort others in their troubles as well. How have you been able to comfort or encourage others because of troubles you have faced?

R Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* In what ways are you currently experiencing troubles or suffering? How can you be like Paul this week and choose to view suffering as an opportunity to provide comfort to others?
- *External:* Consider other students and faculty in your nursing school (or patients if you're in a clinical setting) who are currently experiencing troubles or suffering. As an NCF chapter or as an individual, what is a concrete way you can provide comfort to them?

→ Go to the next study in the series, [Relying on God](#), to find out how Paul learned to trust in God and not in himself through his afflictions.

