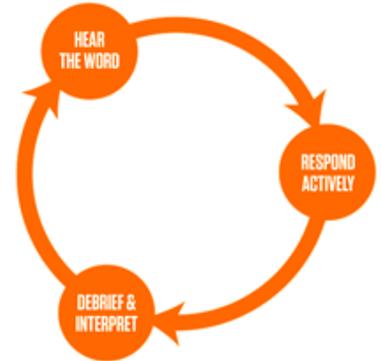


## God's Strength in Our Weakness

None of us like to admit our weaknesses, especially in the demanding environment of nursing school. What does the Bible say about our weaknesses? Can they also be a strength?

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



### **D** Debrief & Interpret

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

### **H** Hear the Word

*Sometimes life can throw you a curve ball. It can be humbling when things do not turn out as you envisioned. It can be even harder to accept personal weaknesses. In this letter, Paul publicly admits to his weaknesses. What can we learn from him?*

#### **Read [2 Corinthians 12:5-10](#):**

<sup>5</sup> I will boast about [others and their strengths], but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup> Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, <sup>7</sup> or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

#### **Discuss:**

- What does Paul mean when he says he will boast only of his weaknesses (v.5)?
- What do you think Paul means by "thorn in the flesh?" How did it keep him from being conceited (v.7)?
- How is God's power made perfect in Paul's weakness (v.9)?
- How would you summarize what Paul is saying about strengths and weaknesses?

## **R** Respond Actively

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

- *Internal application:* Take a minute to assess your life. Where are you experiencing weakness and difficulty right now? In pairs or small groups, proactively “boast” about your weaknesses to God and ask for his power to come into your life by praying something like this: “God, I am really struggling with \_\_\_\_\_. Will you reveal your perfect power through my weakness this week?” Then, commit to praying this prayer several more times this week!
- *External application:* In many nursing schools there is an unwritten rule of competency and capability which makes it hard to be honest with one another. Change the culture this week by “boasting” (confessing) one of your weaknesses to a non-NCF student or faculty. Then, ask them if they are struggling with anything and offer to pray for them in response. This simple act of vulnerability can be a gift from God for your classmates!