Pray together to enter the study
Read text aloud (2-3 verses per person)

FRAME *2 min to read aloud*

A letter written by Paul, a follower of Jesus after Jesus' death.

This is part of his letter to Christians in Corinth.

14 years earlier Paul began following Christ. It is unclear (v2) if was a vision or an event. 'Third Heaven' is the same concept as heaven is today.

OBSERVE

5 min to reflect alone, 5 min to all share

Imagine yourself in the story. What do you see, hear, and smell?

Look for repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, and cause and effect.

Note characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, and reactions.

INTERPRET

3 min to gather q's, 12 min to discuss

Develop some questions based on your observations. What stirs your curiosity?

Imagine the perspective of the people in the scene.

Answer your questions from the text and context.

SUMMARIZE & SPOTLIGHT

1 min to read the summary aloud

Paul describes his experience with heaven but won't boast about it. Instead, he describes how God works through his personal struggles.

3 min to individually write a main point
2 min for all to share, end with leader

TRUSTING GOD IN NURSING SCHOOL: GOD'S STRENGTH IN OUR WEAKNESS

2 Corinthians 12:1 – 10 (NIV)

1 I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on
to visions and revelations from the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who
fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the
body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. 3 And I know that this
man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God
knows— 4 was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things
that no one is permitted to tell. 5 I will boast about a man like that, but I will
not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. 6 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, 7 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. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to
take it away from me. 9 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. 10 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.

APPLY

5 min for individual reflection, 5 min to share as a group

How might God be working in the hardship you are currently experiencing? Share with a partner and commit to praying about your hardship. Write your prayer below and put it somewhere that will remind you to pray this week:

CONCLUDE

5 min to pray for each other and your applications

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