



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 4

April 24th and 25th, 2010

Small Group Warm-Up

Were you ever into Super Heroes as a kid? If so, who was your favorite Super Hero?

If you could have one super power for a day, what would it be? (Flight, strength, invisibility, time travel...)

Opening Prayer

Father God, thank you that we don't have to hide our weaknesses from you, but that we can bring them to you and receive strength through the powerful presence of your Holy Spirit in our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Paul had experienced some extraordinary things in his lifetime. He went from persecuting the early church to becoming it's key apostle after a supernatural encounter with God (Acts 9). He received revelations from God regarding the new covenant of grace that God brought to us through Jesus (Acts 15). Although he was persecuted, beaten, and imprisoned for preaching about Jesus, God stood by him and gave him strength (Acts 16). In the passage above, Paul tells us that he *"was given"* some kind of weakness, so that he would learn to continually to rely on God's strength.

- Have you ever known someone who was constantly boasting about their talents, strengths, or possessions? How did you feel when you were around that person?
- On the other hand, have you ever been inspired by hearing about how someone overcame their weakness through God's power? How did that experience make you feel?
- Is there someone who has been an inspiration to you by sharing their story of how God turned their weakness into strength? Share a little about that person.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18

Pastor Robert reminded us that the cross was the symbol of Rome's dominance over Israel. Jesus transformed that symbol of weakness and death into a symbol of power and life through his death and resurrection.

- When you look at a cross, what thoughts go through your mind and what emotions do you feel?

3. Read John 15:1-5

In this passage, Jesus describes himself as the *"true vine."* We were reminded this weekend that we are not asked to bear fruit for God through our own efforts and strength, but to simply stay connected to Jesus, and allow his life to flow into us and through us.

- What are some ways we keep our connection to Jesus strong?
- What are some things that can tear us away from that connection?

4. Read Psalm 149:1-4

This passage tells us that God *"crowns the humble with salvation."* Humility is about being willing to admit our weakness. All of us have weaknesses. When we invite God into our areas of weakness he can turn them into strengths that can become a source of inspiration to others.

Take a few minutes to think about a time when God showed up and gave you strength in a time when you felt weak and vulnerable. Write down your thoughts. Allow some time for those who want to share their stories.

Closing Prayer

Take time to ask if anyone is currently going through an experience where they need God's strength and power to face the coming week. Pray for each other.

Jesus, thank you for allowing yourself to become weak, even to the point of death on a cross, so that we can experience your resurrection power in our lives.