



2 Corinthians 1—NIV

The God of All Comfort

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. ⁶If 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. ⁷And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

⁸We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

LIFE Community Leader's Guide **Sunday, November 12**

Big Idea: When God gives us comfort, it isn't only enough—it's more than enough.

Key Verse: ³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Opening Question: What is your comfort food? When do you find yourself turning to it for comfort?

Study/Discussion Questions:

- Paul, the writer of this letter to the church in Corinth, has had his share of trouble. What do we learn about Paul's trouble from this portion of his letter?
- What words are repeated in this section of the letter? What does this tell you about what message Paul is trying to convey?
- If you were in Paul's situation, what different emotions might you be feeling towards God?
- What do you think enables him to respond to God with praise?
- What do these verses tell us about the role of God the Father in our lives during times of trouble? The role of Jesus the Son? Do their roles differ?
- In what ways have you received comfort from God during a difficult situation?
- Verses 9-11 give us some indication of what Paul believed to be the purpose of his own trial. What did he think the purpose was? What does that say about Paul's faith?
- In his message on Sunday, Pastor Bryan said that "it seems that when God gives comfort, it's not just enough to make it through, it's enough to give away." Where does Paul suggest this in the text? Have you experienced that in your own life?
- Have you ever experienced a time when you were comforted or 'given strength' by another believer during a difficult period in your life?
- Have you ever been able to comfort or 'give strength' to someone else during a time of their trial in a way that drew on the strength you received in your own difficult experience?
- What must you do in order to allow your hardest experiences to be transformed into ministry assets?
- As you conclude, maybe there is someone in your group who is in special need of encouragement. Take a few minutes and pray for them—that the words of Paul might become a real source of strength for them in the days ahead. Pray that they will receive the comfort that God has to offer and that they might comfort others along the way.