

## **Broken: How God Can Redeem My Weakness**

### **Reflect**

1. What is our cultures' response to weakness in others?
2. What is your response to weakness in others?
3. Are you allowed to show weakness in your life?

### **Read Your Bible**

- 2 Corinthians 12:6-10
- Matthew 26:36-46

### **Apply God's Word to Your Life**

1. Why is arrogance and conceit such a problem for a Christian?
2. How is Christ's power made perfect in our weakness? What does that mean?
3. Can you relate to the having a thorn in your flesh metaphor? How?
4. What does Jesus mean by the Spirit is willing, but the flesh is so weak?
5. How is our weakness a witness of God's love to the world?
6. Is this counter cultural? How so?
7. How can you reach others through your weakness?
8. How does God redeem our weakness?

### **Conclusion**

This world often teaches me that only the strong survive and it is dangerous to show any vulnerability or weakness. We often put on fronts that we have everything under control and figured out, when things are, in reality, falling apart. Keep your chin up. Don't cry. No one cares. Yet, the Apostle Paul says something completely counter cultural. He has found that when he is weak, God's strength is most profoundly

evident in his life. Part of following Jesus is learning to let Him tear down the walls and redeem the broken places of our lives. He can use our imperfections to display His Grace. Learning to be vulnerable and humble is crucial to our witness. Arrogant people are not appealing. Jesus does not want super-hero, over-achiever, got-it-all-together followers, He wants real people who stand truthfully before the cross. Warts and all! Like Paul's thorn in the side, often our weaknesses keep us humbly at the foot of the cross.

### **Pray**

Father, use all of us to serve You, even our weaknesses. May our imperfections and character flaws be opportunities for You to exercise Your Grace and bear witness to Your power in the world. Strengthen us in Your love. Guide us by Your Grace. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Show us the strength of vulnerability to win others for You. In Jesus' name. Amen.