

## WALKING THROUGH II CORINTHIANS CONSOLATION

**Monday 5.23.2016** Read 2 Corinthians 1:1, 1 Corinthians 10:32, Acts 18:12. Achaia is part of the region of West Greece and is situated in the northwestern part of the Peloponnese peninsula. *Why would Paul be sensitive to Greek culture when writing to Corinth? How do you see the importance of Christianity being its own culture along with whatever culture it inhabits? How do we celebrate the unity of Christianity with others who have a different culture or way of approaching their faith? What might we hold in common?*

**Tuesday 5.24.2016** Read 2 Corinthians 1:3, Ephesians 1:3, 1 Peter 1:3. Paul calls God the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation while 1 Peter expands that as the “new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” *Does the resurrection console the Christian when times are tough? Is this “living hope” enough to see us through? We have received every spiritual blessing, God dumped the box out upon us, but do we see ourselves in the spiritual sense as blessed? Since God gave it all to us, is it our perspective that makes it seem that we are not? How do we reconnect as people who are blessed?*

**Wednesday 5.25.2016** Read 2 Corinthians 1:4, Isaiah 49:13, 51:12, 66:13. When you read 2 Corinthians 1:4 alongside the readings from Isaiah, what theme emerges most clearly? Typically we don’t think of God in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) as being loving or gracious—we save that for Jesus. Yet this text for today seems to really focus on God as loving and comforting. *Does this notion challenge a previously-held image of God in the Hebrew Scriptures? How does seeing God as loving and comforting in all of the Bible helpful for reading Scripture?*

**Thursday 5.26.2016** Read 2 Corinthians 1:5, Romans 8:17, Galatians 6:17, Philippians 3:10. In these selections for today, Paul connects the event of the death and resurrection of Jesus as not only core to the purpose of Christ, but to our identity as well. *How should we connect ourselves to the suffering of Jesus in a way that defines the way we live? What does the message of suffering mean for people in our culture who do not have to suffer for faith?*

**Friday 5.27.2016** Read 2 Corinthians 1:9, Jeremiah 17:5,7; John 5:21. *Who do we trust? Where does the power of the resurrection come from? How does that shape our faith and how do we find comfort in these words?*

**Saturday 5.28.2016** Read 2 Corinthians 1:11, Romans 15:30, Philippians 1:19. The true consolation, comfort comes from God, we’ve seen that theme clearly this week. What is the connection between receiving God’s comfort and the prayers of fellow Christians? *What obligation do we have to pray for one another? If the statement about the comfort of God, the power of our identity in Christ’s death and resurrection, is followed directly by the importance of prayer, do we have prayer in the proper place in our lives?*

**Love:** How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?

**Learn:** What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?

**Share:** What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

**Serve:** Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

**Healing Strength:** Lurana Babcock, Robert Sprong (friend of Caitlin McCarty), Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb’s daughter), Janet Coons (Donna’s daughter)

**Homebound Members:** Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

**Military Personnel:** Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark