

# "BAD TAKES"

Life Group discussion questions, week 4

## KEY PASSAGES:

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness so that Christ's power might rest on me. That is why for Christ's sake, I delight in weakness, in insults, in hardships and persecutions and difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**Romans 12:1-2** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Ephesians 3:15-20** I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

**Titus 3:4-7** When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

## QUESTIONS:

1. Share one entertaining episode from your life where some weakness of yours made itself very obvious, despite your best attempts to minimize it.
2. Read the Romans passage above. What are some ways / patterns the world encourages us to hide or ignore our weaknesses?
3. Do you have an experience where being vulnerable about your weakness, failure or struggle with someone led to a deeper, stronger or healthier connection?
4. Do you have any examples in your life of relying on your own abilities rather than God's grace? What did that look like? What was the outcome?
5. In the above Corinthian passage, Paul says "to keep me from becoming conceited... there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me." The word translated as *torment* there can be literally defined as "having your inner being beat down as with fists." Has there been a time that described how you felt?
6. Also in the above 2 Corinthians passage, God tells Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, my power is made perfect in weakness." Have you seen God's power and strength at work in your own life when you were in a place of weakness? Talk about that.
7. Author and teacher Beth Moore says, "We want it quick. Jesus wants it deep. We want relief. Jesus wants redemption. We want it for me. Jesus wants it for many. He knows what He's doing. His timing is right. Let's be patient. It's folly to take into our own hands what Jesus alone can do with His." Thoughts on this quote?