

# Sunday March 22, 2020 – Children’s Lesson

## “God’s Grace Is Amazing”

### 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

[With your family, read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and talk about how God uses hard times in your life.]

#### Paul’s Hard Situation

The Apostle Paul was an incredible preacher who was being used by God to do many incredible things for the Lord. He was able to share the great news of Jesus with people all around the known world. Many people were being saved and looking for Jesus because Paul was obeying God’s plan for his life.

However, Paul had a “thorn in the flesh.” Have you even been poked by a large thorn or briar that become stuck in your skin or even cut you? They hurt! And if they are left “stuck” in your skin they become very uncomfortable and painful.

Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” was not an actual thorn or briar from a plant, but it was evidently some kind of physical problem that brought him pain and/or discomfort in his life. It was evidently something that was constant or permanent in his life because he asked God three times to remove it from his life!

#### Our Situation

Sometimes there are things in our lives that we do not like or make it harder to do the things we always do. Sometimes, we find that seemingly these things make it harder to obey God! Whatever the problem might be in our life, we use it as an excuse to not obey or follow God! We believe that we are unable to obey God, or not strong enough to do the things God wants us to do.

#### God’s Solution To Paul’s Situation

God’s answer for Paul was not to give Paul what he wanted. Instead, God told Paul that His grace was sufficient. What is grace? It is God showing us his goodness even though we do not deserve it! For Paul, that meant even though the thorn was painful, God’s grace would bring him through it all!

Whatever your problem is, God’s grace is enough to bring you through it! We should certainly pray for God to help us! He may fix the problem; and that is always awesome! However, he also might say I need you to keep this problem for a while because I am using it to help you grow! But I will get you through it!

#### What Paul Learned

Paul stopped asking God to take away the “thorn” and instead praised and thanked God for the thorn! Why would he do that? Paul learned that when he had a problem, God was always there to help him. Paul learned that he was weak, but God was strong!

God wanted to help him in every area of life and was able to! Paul’s thorn helped him remember that truth and encouraged him to keep obeying and following the Lord!

The hard things, frustrating things, sad things, confusing things in your life today can remind you that although you do not know what to do, God always does! If we trust Him, He will lead us every day in our lives! God is so good to us. He loves us so much! We can have great joy even in hard times because God is using those things to bring us to Him!

