



Discussion Guide

For the week of January 18, 2026
Jesus, Our Comforter | 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Miss this week's teaching? You can watch it at https://youtu.be/EGu1B6vB_Z0

Summary

Pastor Jim teaches from 2 Corinthians 1, addressing how Paul wrote his second letter to the Corinthian church after some had rejected his first letter's correction. While most of the congregation responded positively to Paul's hard truths about holy living, a minority rebelled and attacked Paul's authority, claiming that his troubles proved he wasn't a legitimate apostle. This reflects the false prosperity gospel teaching that true Christians should be immune from problems. Paul counters this by explaining that followers of Christ are not exempt from trouble in this broken world, but God uses these difficulties for good. The sermon emphasizes that our present troubles are temporary, productive (building endurance, character, and hope), and can be gifts to others as we comfort them with the same comfort God has given us. Paul encourages believers to stay faithful to God's Word, maintain childlike faith while studying as scholars, and develop thick skin for criticism that comes with speaking truth.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for Your Word and the truths You want to reveal to us. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You have for us in this time together. Help us to be vulnerable and honest with one another, and give us the courage to apply Your truth to our lives. We pray that You would use this discussion to draw us closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one skill or hobby you've always wanted to learn but haven't had the time or opportunity to pursue yet?

Key Verses

- 2 Corinthians 1:1-4
- 2 Corinthians 1:5-11
- Romans 5:1-5
- 1 Peter 2:9
- John 15:16

Questions

- Paul faced criticism and attacks on his authority when he spoke hard truths. How do you typically respond when someone challenges your faith or beliefs?
- Pastor Jim mentioned that troubles are 'temporary, productive, and gifts to others.' Which of these three perspectives on trouble is hardest for you to embrace and why?
- Paul says God comforts us in our troubles so we can comfort others. Can you think of a difficult experience in your life that has equipped you to help someone else?



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- The false prosperity gospel teaches that true Christians should be immune from problems. How have you seen this belief affect people's faith when they do face difficulties?
- What does it mean to have 'the faith of a child, the mind of a scholar, and the hide of a rhinoceros' in your Christian walk?
- How can we stay 'on the offense' in our faith rather than living defensively, trying to avoid sin or conflict?
- Paul chose to write another letter to his critics rather than backing down. When have you had to choose between speaking truth and keeping peace?
- Pastor Jim emphasized that our troubles can produce endurance, character, and hope. How have you seen this process work in your own life or in someone you know?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of struggle or past difficulty in your life that God has used to comfort or strengthen you. Reach out to someone who might be going through a similar situation and offer encouragement, sharing how God has been your comfort in that area. Practice being 'on the offense' by looking for opportunities to speak truth in love rather than avoiding difficult conversations.

Key Takeaways

- God allows troubles and pressures in our lives not as punishment, but to develop our character and dependence on Him
- Our present troubles are temporary, productive (building endurance and character), and can become gifts we use to comfort others
- True Christian maturity is measured by our generosity in giving and faithfulness in serving, not by the absence of problems
- We are called to stay faithful to God's Word, maintain childlike faith while studying diligently, and develop resilience against criticism
- God is our ultimate source of comfort in all troubles, and we can redeem our suffering by using it to help others in similar situations

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being our ultimate comforter in every trial and trouble we face. Help us to see our difficulties through Your eyes - as opportunities to grow in character, to depend more fully on You, and to become vessels of comfort for others. Give us the courage to stay faithful to Your Word even when it's difficult, and help us to use our scars and struggles to point others to Your hope and healing. May we live on the offense for Your kingdom, speaking truth in love and serving others with the same grace You have shown us. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.