



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide  
The Struggle – Part 1  
LEADER GUIDE

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS: - Remember the C's of Small group health:**

**CONTENT** - *biblical, intentional, and conversational*

**CONSISTENCY** - *regular meetings and interactions with one another*

**CCARE** - *sharing life's ups and downs with grace, love and encouragement*

**CELEBRATION** - *celebrating God's grace to us and having fun together*

**COMMISSION** - *participating in what God is doing now during our lifetime on earth*

**CHARACTER** - *as a leader – growing in my example for my group*

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**ICE BREAKER:**

- What is the worst travel situation you have ever been in? (Stranded in an airport? Stuck in traffic for hours? Sick in a foreign country)?

**INTO THE WORD:**

1) What is the biggest point you took away from this week's message about Naaman and his leprosy?

**Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

Teaching Note: Most commentators believe Paul was talking about himself in this passage, having incredible visions from God. The passage is about God using "a thorn" of some sort that was very humbling and/or debilitating. Paul is detailing a struggle with pride, and how God allowed the thorn to keep him from growing proud.

2) What does this passage teach us about boasting? What is Paul saying is acceptable when it comes to boasting? (Teaching Tip: God wants us to boast in our weaknesses that highlight His glory.)

3) What do you think this thorn might have been? Come up with some different examples of physical situations, or other situations and discuss if they could have been Paul's thorn.

4) According to this passage, what was God's response? What does that mean to you?

5) Based on this passage, what does it mean for someone to boast about weaknesses? Give some examples of what this looks like?

6) How does God use our suffering and our trials to keep us from moving into pride and control?

### APPLY THE WORD:

7) How can you boast in your weaknesses specifically this week, and give God glory in your life? Give an example for the group.

8) In your life right now, is there anything that could be a thorn, similar to Naaman's leprosy or Paul's thorn? What is that situation?

9) God might heal your situation, or He might not. Based on God's character, how can you move to a place of hope and trust?

### PRAYER TIME:

- *Pray for each person in the group for their "thorn" situation, and for God to bring hope and faith.*