

SUSTAINED BY CHRIST

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

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INTRODUCTION

Two important prayers in our corporate worship: **doxology** and **benediction**.

A. A HEART OF **THANKFULNESS**

1. Thankful from **all** the comfort that we receive (v. 3)
2. Thankful from **all** the trials that we face (v. 4)

B. A SPIRIT OF **GENEROSITY**

1. Suffering unites us with **Christ** (v. 5)
2. Suffering unites us **together** (v. 6-7)

C. A MINDSET OF **ENDURANCE**

1. We must acknowledge the **reality** of trials (v. 8)
2. We need to **rely** on God, not ourselves (v. 9)
3. We place our confidence that God will **rescue** us (v. 10)

CONCLUSION:

Communion as a symbol of unity in **suffering** and **salvation**.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. **Icebreaker:** Share about a time when someone's comfort or encouragement made a difference for you. How did it impact you?

Scripture Reflection

2. **Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 aloud together.** What words or phrases stand out to you in these verses? Why?

Discussion Questions

3. **Understanding God's Character:** Paul calls God the "Father of compassion and the God of all comfort" (v.3). How do you personally experience or understand God's compassion and comfort? How does this influence your view of God?
4. **Purpose of Comfort:** Verses 4-5 speak about comforting others with the comfort we receive from God. How does receiving comfort from God enable us to comfort others? Can you think of a recent example?
5. **Suffering and Reliance on God:** In verses 8-9, Paul describes a period of intense suffering where he felt "under great pressure." How did this experience lead him to rely on God instead of himself? Have you had a similar experience where suffering deepened your reliance on God?
6. **Shared Suffering and Unity:** In verse 7, Paul speaks of sharing in both sufferings and comfort with the Corinthians. How does sharing both struggles and encouragement help build stronger community within our group?

Application Questions

7. **Comforting Others:** Think of someone in your life who might need comfort or encouragement right now. What is one tangible way you could reach out to them this week?
8. **Trust in God's Deliverance:** In verse 10, Paul expresses confidence that God will continue to deliver him from troubles. How can we build this same trust in God's faithfulness when facing our own challenges?

Prayer Focus

9. **Group Prayer:** Pray for one another, specifically asking God to fill each person with comfort and strength. Pray also for the courage to share that comfort with others who are struggling.