

- Week **1** Questions -

Opening Question: *If you were writing like Paul after much tribulation how might you fill in this blank? "In my life, God is the Father of _____."*

Read **2 Corinthians 1:1-11** together.

Questions from the text

- In verse 9 Paul references relying "...not on ourselves but on God..." What stories in scripture display this done well? What stories display it done poorly?
- What hardships do we know Paul has previously experienced that support his ability to speak on suffering throughout this passage?

Cross Reference

- Read **Acts 9:15-16** together.
  Discuss how this passage lends credence to Paul as he addresses suffering in relation to living a life for Christ.

Application Questions

- What does it look like for you to "patiently endure" suffering, and why is this an important quality in our lives?
- Paul writes about a hope that is "unshaken" in the face of affliction. What does an unwavering hope look like, and how can we cultivate it?

Core Value: Community

As we look in Scripture, we see ways we are directed to surrender to Christ, be a part of his biblical community, and participate in his mission.

- Community not only connects us to one another, but it grafts us into the lives of those around us. How can sharing in experiences of both suffering and comfort help build unity within a community of believers?