

WEEK THIRTY-FIVE: “God’s Power in Your Weakness”
DAY ONE: “Admit Your Weaknesses”

Read: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1340)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 272 to top of 274

Reflect: What are your emotional, physical, circumstantial, and spiritual weaknesses?

Dig: Why was Paul’s ‘thorn’ given to him? See 2 Corinthians 12:7.

How is God’s power ‘made perfect in weakness’? See also 1 Corinthians 1:27-31(*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1305).

What does Paul mean by the paradoxical phrase “when I am weak, then I am strong”? See also Philippians 4:13 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1371).

Apply: Personalize verse 9 by saying ‘God’s grace is sufficient for me, for his power is made perfect in my _____.’ (Fill in the blank with your weaknesses.)

WEEK THIRTY-FIVE: “God’s Power in Your Weakness”
DAY TWO: “Be Content With Your Weaknesses”

Read: Genesis 15:1-5, 16:1-4, 17:1-2, 15-19 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, pp. 19-21)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 274 to top of 276

Reflect: When have you been blessed because someone ministered to you out of their weakness?

Dig: Remind yourself of the weaknesses of one patriarch by reading the verses from Genesis noted above. What are some of Abraham’s weaknesses that are apparent in these verses?

Note how God used him despite his initial doubts. See Hebrews 11:11-12 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1433).

Apply: Pray that God will use your weaknesses for His glory and to minister to someone today.

WEEK THIRTY-FIVE: “God’s Power in Your Weakness”
DAY THREE: “Honestly Share Your Weaknesses”

Read: Hebrews 4:15-16 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1424)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 276 to middle of 277

Reflect: Rick Warren writes, “Our strengths create competition, but our weaknesses create community.” (*Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 277) How have you seen evidence of this?

Dig: Sharing our weaknesses with each other comes with the risk of being misunderstood or ridiculed.

What words would you use to describe how you feel in knowing that you have a high priest who can sympathize with every one of your weaknesses?

What happens when you share your weaknesses with him?

Apply: Let’s do it: approach the throne of grace with confidence that you may receive mercy and find grace to help you in your time of need.

WEEK THIRTY-FIVE: “God’s Power in Your Weakness”
DAY FOUR: “Glory in Your Weaknesses”

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:6-9 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1330)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 277-278

Reflect: According to what Rick Warren writes in this section, how can you ‘glory in your weakness’? Be specific.

Dig: What is the treasure that Paul speaks of in verse 7?

What do you think Paul means by the phrase ‘jars of clay’? What relevance does this have to weakness?

What is the reason that this treasure is held within jars of clay? See verse 7.

Apply: When a light is hidden within a jar of clay that has cracks and flaws within it, the light radiates out through the vessel in a beautiful, glorious way. Pray that God will reveal to you not only areas of weakness within your life, but also how his glory and power can be displayed in your weakness.

WEEK THIRTY-FIVE: **“God’s Power in Your Weakness”**
DAY FIVE: **Lectio Divina**

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 2 of this booklet), **meditate on this scripture:**

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- ♦ *reading*: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- ♦ *meditation*: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- ♦ *prayer*: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility, and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.