

# THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY THAT

## Group Discussion Guide

### The Bible Doesn't Say That 1: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

**Big Idea:** *Sometimes God purposely allows more than we can handle*

**Leader Note:** You'll notice several of these leader notes throughout the guide. These don't have to be read out loud. But you can if they're helpful. They are simply here to help you navigate discussion with a little extra knowledge or helpful tips. If I can help you with anything before group, please feel free to get a hold of me! You can easily contact me at [daniel@fcc-online.org](mailto:daniel@fcc-online.org)

## ICEBREAKER: (5 MIN)

- **Question:** We have all seen things on the internet, believed they are true, only to later find out it was fake. Can you think of a funny example of that?

## CONNECT: (5 MIN)

- **Say this:** *Maybe your Grandma said it... or maybe it was a piece good of advice that simply made you feel better...or maybe, you just heard others talk about it so much you assumed was true. Sometimes we do this with the Bible. But the source matters. Over this series, we're going to unpack some things the Bible doesn't actually say. And hopefully, we can replace those half-truths with a much more reliable foundation.*
- **Connect Question:** If you were to share wisdom with someone curious about your faith, claiming it was from the Bible, only for them to find out later it wasn't in the Bible, how might that impact their view of your faith?

## Starters: (15-20 MIN)

- **Read:** 1 Corinthians 10:13
- **Question:** Standing on its own, what are some potential interpretations of what Paul is trying to say to the Corinthian church here?

- **(Leader Note:** A common misinterpretation here is that God won't give you anything you can't handle. If this is given as an example, don't judge that or point that out as wrong just yet. The next question will take care of that.)
- **Read: 1 Corinthians 5:1-2**
- **Question:** This is clearly an example of bad behavior in the church. When you understand this was an earlier part of the same letter we just read our first passage from, how does that clarify what Paul is saying?
  - **(Leader Note:** Paul is talking about overcoming temptation with God's help, not that God won't allow hard things to happen. This is an example of using the tool of "Context")
- **Read Mark 14:33-34**
- **Question:** When you stand this passage up against the statement, "God won't give you more than you can handle" does that make sense? Is there potentially a better/truer wisdom than that statement?
  - (Leader Note: It's notable that Jesus even seems to be overwhelmed during this passage. Maybe a truer statement is "it's okay to feel like you can't handle some things." This is an example of using the "Christ Lens" tool.)

## DISCOVER: (25 MIN)

- **Say this:** *On Sunday, we learned that sometimes God will purposely allow more than we can handle. Maybe that's concerning to you. And we aren't here to diminish your concerns. But if we dig a little deeper, there may be a life giving way forward that we can discover.*
- **Question:** Can you think of examples of Characters from the Bible who at times endured "more than they could handle?"
  - **(Leader Note:** On Sunday we talked about David, Esther, Gideon, Moses and Jesus. Feel free to let others come up with examples, too)
- **Question:** Growing up, were you encouraged to healthily process your emotions? Or were there any emotions that were discouraged from being displayed?
  - **(Leader Note:** Here's the point we are getting at here... emotions are amoral. But the choices actions we attach to them can become sinful. Emotions are meant to be processed openly in our relationship with God.)
- **Read: Psalm 145:18-19**
- **Question:** David wrote these words from the deep experiences of hard situations he encountered in life. What does this passage tell us about our relationship with God when life gets hard?
  - **(Leader Note:** Using multiple passages throughout the Bible and discerning the whole message of scripture is a way of using the tool we talked about on Sunday called "Biblical Theology")
- **Question:** We're often afraid of appearing weak or overwhelmed. Why do you think this is the case?

- **Read: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**
- **Question:** How can we begin to understand our weaknesses as strengths and blessings in our relationship with God?
  - **(Leader Note:** This is not to justify us not trying to honor God and be holy... remember our first verse 1 Corinthians 10:13 when rightly interpreted means God wants to help us honor Him in this way! What this does mean is that God loves working through people in powerful ways who are humble enough to rely upon Him.)

## **RESPOND/PRAYER: (15 MIN)**

- **Prompt:** Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this week? **(refer to the cheat sheet on the last page of this discussion guide).**
- **Prompt:** Pray that God would open our eyes to see the people who He wants us to B.L.E.S.S. where we live work and play.
- **Prompt:** Spend time sharing prayer requests.

## **WRAP UP: (OPTIONAL)**

- Our prayer for you is that when life gets hard, you won't be discouraged to the point of despair. Not because it's wrong to be sad or depressed, but because the difficulty of life is an opportunity for us to surrender ourselves to God and rely upon Him in complete humility.

# FIRST Groups B.L.E.S.S. Updates

At FIRST, *our groups exist to help us grow in our relationship with God and each other.* But for what? Why does God want us to grow? We are convicted that God wants to use the strength and community of our groups, to bless the people where we live work and play. Especially the people we know who do not have a relationship with God. This is how we'll fulfill the Jesus Mission to "go and make disciples" (Matt 28-18-20).

As groups, **we want to intentionally "B.L.E.S.S." people each week.**<sup>1</sup> *What do we mean by that?*

**B - Begin with prayer:** We will pray for the people where we live work and play.

**L - Listen:** We will intentionally listen to the people in our lives where we live work and play.

**E - Eat:** We will share meals with the people where we live work and play.

**S - Serve:** We will respond to the needs we discover among the people where we live, work, and play.

**S - Story:** We will share the story of Jesus and what He is doing in our lives with the people where we live work and play.

## So in your group:

- *Start every prayer time by asking, "who did you B.L.E.S.S. this week?"*
- Write down what each of your group members say, and follow up week by week.
- **ENCOURAGE:** This is not meant to shame, but to empower us to take intentional steps to be a blessing. If all else fails, you can encourage timid or nervous group members to start by intentionally praying for God to open doors for them to be a blessing (Colossians 4:2-3)
- Continue to share personal prayer requests and praises.

This subtle shift in times of prayer can lead to a massive impact over time. Thanks for helping your group grow and be a blessing!

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<sup>1</sup> This B.L.E.S.S. acronym was originally developed as a church resource by Dave Ferguson.

[https://smile.amazon.com/Discover-Your-Mission-Dave-Ferguson/dp/0983086486/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1539805578&sr=8-1&keywords=discover+your+mission+now](https://smile.amazon.com/Discover-Your-Mission-Dave-Ferguson/dp/0983086486/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1539805578&sr=8-1&keywords=discover+your+mission+now)