



## LifeGroup Discussion Guide

### Weakness or Strength?

*Remember this page is designed to begin a discussion with your LifeGroup. It is not comprehensive. Allow the following questions to spur on deeper and further conversation, study, and discussion.*

Go around and share a story of a time when you needed to ask for help, but didn't want to? [Anything from opening a pickle jar to asking for directions]. One of the most common areas where it is difficult to ask for help is raising funds for mission trips. Why do you think it can be so hard for us to ask for help? What does this difficulty reveal about our nature to be-in-control?

**READ: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10** - Notice the context of boasting and ministry protection. What are some of the common failures in ministry that we too-often hear about? Which ones have struck you as personally grievous, and why? **READ: 1 Corinthians 9:27 & 2 Corinthians 11:29-30** - Was the Apostle Paul afflicted by the possibility of failure in ministry? Go around and speak to the role of "*humility*" in ministry - expand your definition beyond the role of "*professional ministry*".

Work through the first 3 points of reframing application:

1. How might trials help drive us back to a dependency upon God rather than on self?

**READ and comment on 1 Peter 5:7**

2. How might trials provide a protection from the vanity of self-glorification? **READ and comment on Galatians 6:3**

3. How might trials serve as a reminder of the source of true strength? **READ and comment on Isaiah 40:29-31**

Lastly, think through the reality of your reception of God's grace. How does a shallow appreciation for grace leave us vulnerable to self-exaltation? **READ: 1 Corinthians 15:9-10** - How does Paul reference God's grace in contrast with his own self perception? Close out your time by sharing a story of God's gracious intervention in your life - a personal story - that leaves your hearers boasting about how God is really in control!