



Life begins where your resume leaves off. [2 Corinthians 11,12](#)

### **Getting Started**

What is an event or accomplishment that you would put on your life resume?

What is a character quality or an event that you have that makes you uniquely you that you would never put on a resume?

Every once in a while, we run into people stuck in unchangeable, unalterable, in-the-meantime circumstances who get to the place where they're able and willing to receive their circumstances, their afflictions, their illnesses, their losses, and their disabilities. Can you name someone like that?

How do these people maintain extraordinary faith despite extraordinarily difficult circumstances? Where do they find the peace that characterizes their lives?

### **Going Deeper**

Why do you think people assume that faith in God will remove adversity from life? Have you ever made that assumption? If so, how did it influence your relationship with God?

Talk about a time when you or someone you knew faced difficult circumstances and God was silent. How did that experience affect your faith in the short term? How did it affect your faith in the long term?

Review [2 Corinthians 12:7-10](#) What wisdom does Paul give us on why God allows thorns in our life?

What would it look like for you to “delight in weakness” for the sake of Jesus? How would it change the way you respond to adversity?

Do you feel permission to plead with God to take away your difficult circumstances? Do you believe he responds to that kind of prayer? Why or why not?

For further reference check out these verses. [Philippians 4:6,7](#), [Romans 8:26,27](#), [Psalm 88:1-3](#)

On Sunday Jack talked about two reasons why God allows thorns in our life. Take a moment to review them.

How do thorns keep us close to God?

How do thorns keep us real and authentic?

What is the “thorn in your side,” the ongoing struggle or challenge that you can’t change and about which you need to accept God’s grace in order to move forward?

What can you do to begin to view that “thorn” as a gift that comes with a purpose and a promise from your heavenly Father?

How can this group support you?