



Pastor Michael Cason  
2 Cor. 12:1-10

General:

- Can you recall a 'what just happened' moment you've experienced in your life (something unexpected or painful that shifted your perspective)?
- What are the areas of pain that you need God to show up and He hasn't? What is the pain in your life you wish He would remove?
- Pastor Michael explained the cultural context surrounding the Corinthian church (comparison, division, external voices). Where do you see those same forces at work in the American Church or even your personal life?
- Pastor Michael said: "Our greatest opportunity to be used by God is found in letting our weaknesses reflect the strength of Christ." How does that challenge your view of weakness?
- When have you seen God accomplish big things through the "weakness" of people?
- What would it look like if your place of greatest weakness is where God wants to do His greatest work?

Take Home 1: For us to reflect Christ, we have to allow others into our deepest thorns

- What does "community" mean to you?
- What fears or barriers keep you from sharing your pain or struggles with others?
- When was the last time you let someone in your life know of your biggest struggle?
- Is there someone today that God might be prompting you to invite into your story?

Take Home 2: A Church that reflects the power of Christ through their thorns is the hope of the world

- What would it look like for your story to help someone else this week?
- How does 'Intentional Neighboring' take on new meaning when you consider it through the lens of pain and weakness?
- Are you currently equipping, connecting, or serving anywhere? If not, what might your next step be?

Take Home 3: Our thorn should lead us to the gentle reminder that God is with us, for us, and will never leave us

- What promises from Scripture do you need to hold onto in the middle of pain? Are there verses that have carried you through past seasons of suffering?
- Take a moment to re-read 2 Cor. 12:9-10. How does it reshape how you view your current struggle?