WEEK 5 — Crisis of Belief: "Who Am I?"

February 7 — Missions Sunday • 2 Corinthians 12:9–10

MAIN POINT

The crisis is rarely whether I am enough. The crisis is whether I believe God is enough.

Aim: Shift confidence from personal competence to the sufficiency of Christ.

Primary NT: 2 Corinthians 12:9–10

Supporting NT: 2 Corinthians 3:5; Hebrews 11:6; James 2:17; Matthew 14:28–31

Key Doctrine: Grace, weakness, faith

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use these questions and illustrations to introduce the topic and surface lived experience.

What assignment makes you think, "God, You have the wrong person"? Missions quickly exposes fears about language, money, ability, and control.

Transition: Read the New Testament passage before turning to the Moses illustration.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says and what it means. Read the assigned passage before offering interpretation.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9–10.

- What did Paul ask God to remove?
- What answer did God give?
- Where is Christ's power displayed?
- How did Paul's evaluation of weakness change?

Movement 1 — God does not require self-sufficiency

Connect: 2 Corinthians 3:5

Our sufficiency comes from God. The better question is not "Who am I?" but "Who is God?"

Apply: Name where you feel inadequate.

Leader explanation: Paul's "thorn" in 2 Corinthians 12:7–10 remains unidentified; the passage therefore resists easy claims that every weakness has the same explanation. His threefold plea was met not with removal but with the Lord's promise of sufficient grace.

Moses illustration: Moses' repeated "Who am I?" objections (Ex 3:11, 4:1-17).

Movement 2 — Faith transfers confidence

Connect: Hebrews 11:6

Faith trusts God's character, not our predicted outcome. Mission often challenges comfort.

Apply: What control or comfort do you fear losing?

Leader explanation: Christ's power is made perfect in weakness: this does not glorify suffering itself or discourage seeking appropriate help. It redirects confidence from personal capacity to God's sustaining grace. Second Corinthians 3:5 makes the same point regarding ministry competence.

Movement 3 — Real faith takes action

Connect: James 2:17; Matthew 14:28–31

Trust becomes obedience even while we remain dependent.

Apply: Rewrite an excuse as the belief about God beneath it.

Leader explanation: Hebrews 11:6 teaches that faith approaches God trusting His reality and character. James 2:17 reminds us that living faith acts. On Missions Sunday, do not equate courage with recklessness; faithful mission includes preparation, partnership, accountability, and love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is Paul's view of weakness?
- How is faith different from positive thinking?
- Why might weakness remain?
- Where do you feel inadequate?
- What might God ask that you fear?
- What does mission reveal about your comfort?
- What belief underlies your recurring excuse?
- What faithful action can you take?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the Scripture directly shapes their week. Invite a concrete response without pressuring anyone to disclose private circumstances.

- How can you embrace desperate dependence in the midst of doubt this week?
- What is one clear act of obedience this lesson calls for?
- What objection do you need to lay aside?

PRAYER

Guided prayer: Jesus, I often judge Your invitation by my abilities. Teach me to trust Your sufficiency and act faithfully.

BETWEEN-WEEK PRACTICE

READ 2 Corinthians 12:7–10; 2 Corinthians 3:4–6; Matthew 14:22–33; Hebrews 11:1–6; James 2:14–18

DO / PRAY Pray daily for one missionary or mission partner; initiate one spiritual conversation.

MEMORY VERSE 2 Corinthians 12:9

COMMENTARY

Leader reference: 2 Corinthians 12:9–10

Paul's "thorn" in 2 Corinthians 12:7–10 remains unidentified; the passage therefore resists easy claims that every weakness has the same explanation. His threefold plea was met not with removal but with the Lord's promise of sufficient grace.

Christ's power is made perfect in weakness: this does not glorify suffering itself or discourage seeking appropriate help. It redirects confidence from personal capacity to God's sustaining grace. Second Corinthians 3:5 makes the same point regarding ministry competence.

Hebrews 11:6 teaches that faith approaches God trusting His reality and character. James 2:17 reminds us that living faith acts. On Missions Sunday, do not equate courage with recklessness; faithful mission includes preparation, partnership, accountability, and love.

Teaching note: Avoid making this passage promise more than it says. Invite honest questions, attend to the context, and return the discussion to Jesus and the authority of Scripture.