

HARD KNOCK LIFE

Christ's Power is Displayed in Hard Times*



* Based on "Unbreakable?" by Bryan Wilkerson. The complete article with the story shared in Part 1 can be found on the Hard Knock Life webpage at sov.church/groups/hard-knock-life.

TEXT:

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

TOPIC:

Demonstrating the power of Christ by enduring

BIG IDEA:

God gives comfort enough to share

ICEBREAKER

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

PART 1: IDENTIFY THE ISSUE

Alternate or expanded discussion questions:

[Q] What are some of the hardships and sufferings that others you know are experiencing at this time?

[Q] Who do you know that has shown unbreakable faith when experiencing a hardship or struggle? What did you learn from their experience?

[Q] When experiencing your own hardships, how do you usually respond? Do you ask God questions like "why me?" or "how am I supposed handle this?". Do you see Christ's power and lean into your faith? Both?

PART 2: DISCOVER THE ETERNAL PRINCIPLES

TEACHING POINT ONE: We are jars of clay

Alternate or expanded discussion questions:

[Q] What are some of the hardships and sufferings that others you know are experiencing at this time?

[Q] Who do you know that has shown unbreakable faith when experiencing a hardship or struggle? What did you learn from their experience?

[Q] When experiencing your own hardships, how do you usually respond? Do you ask God questions like "why me?" or "how am I supposed handle this?". Do you see Christ's power and lean into your faith? Both?

TEACHING POINT TWO: God displays his life-giving power through jars of clay

Alternate or expanded discussion questions

[Q] When have you observed God's "all-surpassing power" displayed in "jars of clay", either in your own life or others? What does this tell you about God?

[Q] Have you ever volunteered at church, helped a stranger in need, or done another self-sacrificing deed, then having to remind yourself that "we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing powers is from God and not us" (v. 7)? What causes us to get off track and think it is more about us than it is about God?

[Q] How do verses 8-9 encourage you at this moment in your life?

TEACHING POINT THREE: God dispenses his life-giving power through jars of clay

Alternate or expanded discussion questions:

[Q] How do you react to the statement “God’s not looking for sterling silver tea sets. He’s looking for rough and tumble clay pots...” Do you believe this? Do you think American Christians believe this? Why or why not?

[Q] How did the suffering of others pave the way for you to experience life in Christ?

[Q] How has your suffering led to opportunities to minister to others? How could it this week?

PART 3: APPLY YOUR FAITH

Optional closing prayer:

Pair up with another group member and pray 1 Peter 5:10 over each other, using the member’s name.

And the God of all grace, who called [NAME] to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.