

THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY THAT

WEEK 3

“ These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group or Bible class. ”

We often give or receive what sounds to be wise counsel but turns out to be completely unhelpful. For example, “God will never give you more than you can handle” sounds wise but is it helpful? More importantly, is that true? What is spoken as a word of comfort can come across as more of a taunt, “Cowboy up, you wimp!”

1 THE PROMISE OF “NOT MORE”... *Not sinning* is always an option. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. Our baptisms did not drown the devil. We can never avoid temptation completely, but we can always escape it. The Bible says that sin is never a believer’s only choice. What are some ways that we try to rationalize disobedience? Why do we fail temptation tests if God promises to always provide a way out (see James 1:13-15)?

2 THE PROMISE OF “NOT MORE”... *Not suffering* is never an option. We do not have to be overcome by sin, but we will be overwhelmed by life. God does not have to order this; it is simply the consequence of living in a broken, fallen world in need of redemption. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8. Paul and many other biblical heroes knew “*more than I can handle*” seasons. Share a time in your life where you felt like Paul.

3 THE GIFT OF “TOO MUCH”... So we will *rely on God*. Suffering is a given, but it can also be a gift. Read 2 Corinthians 1:9. Why are we so prone to try to “*power through*” difficult seasons, and how does suffering remind us of our desperate need for God?

4 How does a person “*rely on God*” in a hard season?

5 The sinful flesh values self-reliance and wants to pretend it can just hunker down and power its way through anything. But we were created to need God, and we are actually in desperate shape when we are not desperate for Him. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Why is acknowledgement of our weakness critical to developing a deeper relationship with God?

6 THE GIFT OF “TOO MUCH”... So we will *comfort each other*. It is true that “*hurt people hurt people*.” But it is also true that hurt people can help heal people. Read 2 Corinthians 1:10-11 and 1:4. How does God use the body of Christ as an instrument of His grace? Share an experience of this from your life.

ACTION STEP Don’t just ask God to remove your thorns; ask Him to redeem your thorns. Your scars are your story. What you have come through has prepared you for who you might be called to. No one can take away our scars, but we can give away our stories. As you go through this week ask God to show you how your **weakness** can be a **witness** for Christ. Look for the opportunities He will give you to share your story for His glory as you comfort others along the way.