

# Playing While Hurt

## Welcome

What is the worst injury you have ever had? How did it happen?

OR

What would you do over, if you could have a second chance?

## Worship

- Read *Romans 5:3-5*. Paul describes why we persevere through sufferings. What do these verses say God has done for us?

- Spend some time thanking God for the trials you've gone through and how it has helped you grow.

## Word

### *2 Corinthians 6:3-10*

1. What were some of Paul and Timothy's (2 Cor. 1:1) hardships listed in these first few verses?
2. If they had not endured any of these hardships for the Gospel, how would it have discredited their ministry (vs. 3,4)?
3. When you go through hardships, how does it affect your testimony?
4. Looking at verses 6-10, what were some principles they demonstrated that allowed them to "play while hurt?"
5. What does Paul mean in verse 10 by, "having *nothing*, yet possessing *everything*?"

### *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

6. Why doesn't the Lord take away Paul's weakness?
7. Choose a principle of endurance from these verses that you can apply to your life. What can you do to apply it to your current situation?

## Witness

- Who do you know that is currently "hurt" and could use encouragement and support? Pray for them and ask God what you can do for them.
- Blessing List: Continue to pray for the list of people God wants to bless through you.

# Leader Notes: Playing While Hurt

## Welcome

The *Welcome* questions are to help break the ice at the beginning of the meeting. They will also help the group learn more about each other. Have fun with the first question. The second question could be fun or serious, depending on how people answer it. Be sensitive to the “regrets” people have.

## Worship

The *Worship* time is designed to take time and connect with God.

After reading Romans, spend a few minutes discussing the question. Then spend more time in pray and worship. You could play worship music, go around the group and pray, or have popcorn prayers (where people just blurt out one sentence prayers) etc.

## Word

The *Word* section is for group discussion of the sermon topic. It is designed to provide opportunities to learn how to apply God’s word and more importantly live it out.

1. Distressed, beatings, imprisonments, riots, sleepless nights, hunger, etc.
  2. If their faith hadn’t been tested then they wouldn’t have been able to testify to God’s faithfulness and power in their life and ministry. God allows hardships to build His testimony in us and through us.
  3. You can relate with people who’ve experience similar experiences; you speak through experience rather than theory. You have to rely on God more. You realize He’s the one doing the work.
  4. Patience, kindness, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, understanding, righteousness, speaking the truth, weapons of righteousness, etc.
  5. It’s not about possessing “stuff,” it’s about possessing an unwavering faith in God’s plan for your life. When we trust God for our life and act accordingly, we have everything.
  6. Without Paul’s weakness he would not have to rely on God as much. Our weaknesses force us to rely on God’s strength.
  7. A couple principles are: God’s grace is enough for me. His power is made perfect in my weakness. When I’m weak, I rely on God’s strength and He strengthens me.
- Encourage them to use these principles to apply to their life right now.

## Witness

The *Witness* time is designed to focus our thoughts, actions, conversations and prayers on reaching out to others with the love of Jesus.

The goal of this lesson is to challenge us to persevere through any trial and see it as an opportunity to grow. Many people in our lives are going through trials and could use God’s comfort. Pray for them. What you can do: send a card or email, give flowers, write a letter, encourage them over the phone, give them a gift, etc.

Pray for the people on your blessing list.