

## Materials I Need:

## Legend:

= Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade= Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Memory Work:

“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

## Suggested Thematic Tracks:

 Do Not Be Deceived

- HOOK: Disguises (*Activity*)  
 Disguised (*Game*)  
 Mind Reader (*Activity*)  
 Where’s the Power? (*Object Lesson*)  
 Deception in the Garden (*Coloring Page*)  
 Don’t Be Deceived (*Activity*)
- LOOK: Finding the Fake (*Worksheet*)  
 To Tell the Truth (*Game*)  
 Why Believe Paul? (*Discussion*)  
 Clinging to God’s Word (*Activity*)
- TOOK: Engaged Woman (*Object Lesson/Discussion*)  
 Measuring (*Object Lesson/Snack*)  
 Portrait of Paul (*Continuing Activity*)

 Boast in Your Weaknesses



- HOOK: Permission to Brag (*Activity/Discussion*)
- LOOK: Paul’s Brag Book (*Craft/Worksheet*)  
 Power From Above (*Craft*)
- TOOK: Interview with Pastor Earl (*Discussion*)  
 Thank You, Lord (*Activity*)  
 God’s Power in Weakness (*Human Object Lesson*)



 Complementary Activities


## Hook:



① **Disguises (*Activity*)**. Bring in dress-up clothes, disguises, costumes, props, etc. Let the students dress up and pretend to be someone or something else. Have them try to convince others of who or what they are. Discuss whether or not dressing up and trying to be someone or something else really makes what you say true.

① **Disguised (Game).**   Have three teachers or helpers come to class disguised. They must try to convince the students that they really are who they are dressed up to be (an astronaut, cowboy, President Bush, etc.). The idea is to let the students see at the end of HOOK time that, although the teachers are very convincing in how they look and what they say, they are really the students' teachers and not who they pretended to be.



① **Mind Reader (Activity).**   Discuss with the students that false apostles were deceiving the Corinthians. Explain that to be deceived means to be tricked by “almost truths” or misled by lies. Before the students come to class, write the number 1089 on a piece of paper. Place the paper in an envelope and seal it. When class begins, tell the students that you have the ability to read minds. Tell them that you have written a number on a piece of paper inside the envelope. Give the envelope to one of the students. Ask another student to come to the board and write a three-digit number on the board. Have the student reverse the numbers and subtract the lower number from the higher number. Take that answer and reverse the digits and add those numbers. Example:



$$\begin{array}{r} 462 \quad \text{any three digits} \\ -264 \quad \text{reversed numbers} \\ \hline 198 \\ +891 \quad \text{above answer reversed and added} \\ \hline 1089 \end{array}$$


(Always put the LARGER number on top when subtracting). Ask the student with the envelope to open it and read the number on the paper. After a small discussion about your mind-reading ability, explain to the students that anyone can do this if they know the “trick.” In order to be sure that we are NOT “tricked” by someone who is trying to deceive us, point out that when we know what God’s Word says, we will not be led astray by false teachers.


① **Where’s the Power? (Object Lesson).**   You will need:

Two flashlights (one very large, impressive one and one small one)  
Make sure the small flashlight has batteries that work. Leave the batteries out of the large one. Show both flashlights (turned off) to the students. Ask them which one they would like to have with them on a dark night when they can’t see their way. Ask two student volunteers to come to the front of the class and demonstrate the advantages of the larger flashlight over the smaller one. However, when they try to turn them on, they will realize that they were deceived by appearances. The large flashlight looked good on the outside, but there was no source of power inside. Tell them that, in the lesson today Paul will beg the Corinthians not to be deceived by appearances. “You are looking only on the surface of things. If anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ, he should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as he” (2 Cor. 10:7). Explain to them that there were false teachers in Corinth who were like the large flashlight. They put on a good show and fooled a lot of people but they did not have the real power of God. So when people followed them, they were still in darkness. That’s why Paul knew that it was necessary to expose the truth about these teachers.

① **Deception in the Garden (Coloring Page).**   As the students color the picture, **2CO06.GF1**, talk about the very first lie, or deception. Ask them: What was the lie, and why did Eve do what the serpent told her to do? Talk about Satan’s plan from the beginning, and how he still tries to deceive us today. Tell the students that they will hear this morning how, during Paul’s time, Satan was using the false prophets to deceive the Corinthians into believing lies about Paul. Paul was forced to defend himself because of these lies.

① **Don’t Be Deceived (Object Lesson).**   Bring in several items that you can talk about. These items may or may not be something with which the students are familiar. Present each item to the class and talk about what the item is, why you would need to have one of these, how it is used, and the benefits or results of using it. Obviously the object of this exercise is to fool or confuse the students into believing that what you are telling them is the truth. Once you have presented each item, see if the students can tell which items you were telling the truth about, and which ones were fabricated stories. Tell them that this morning they will hear how Paul confronted the false teachers in Corinth and how he exposed them and their teachings as fakes.

 ② **Permission to Brag (Activity/Discussion).** 🦋, 🦋 Ask the students what they think boasting or bragging is. (Telling things about yourself that you're proud of.) Give the students permission to make one boast to the class. (Call on them as they raise their hands. Not everyone has to do this, but limit each student to one.) Ask them: Is it a good idea to brag? Do you like it when other people do a lot of bragging? Explain to the students that in 2 Corinthians, Paul says it's foolishness to brag, and yet in the passage today he goes on and on with boasting. Ask them to find out why he finds it necessary to do this and what very unusual things he chooses to brag about.

 ➤ **2 Corinthians One-Sent Take-Home (Review).** 🦋, 🦋 Follow up with the students' take-home Scripture work each week during HOOK time—whether pre-HOOK, as the students come into the classroom, or post-HOOK, after a HOOK activity and before the BOOK as a review. Reward the students who have memorized last week's verse with the next sticker for their One-Sent Flying Disc. Challenge them according to their ability to memorize all the key verses in 2 Corinthians up to the current week's lesson. An additional challenge to memorize the outline itself (i.e., The Apostle and His Comfort, The Apostle and His Message, etc.) can be given, as appropriate.



### Book:

#### ***Bible Adventure for 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades -***

As you may remember, the Corinthians had allowed false teachers into their church. These teachers claimed that Paul didn't really have authority as a true apostle, and they convinced many not to obey his teachings. This was a very dangerous situation because if the Corinthians didn't listen to Paul, they would miss God's plan for their lives and the truth of the Gospel would be in doubt. For this reason, Paul had to send several letters to correct them. After writing a particularly severe letter that he had delivered to them by his ministry partner, Titus, most of the Corinthian believers repented. They stopped following the false teachers and turned back to Paul as their true spiritual leader. However, there were still a few Corinthians who continued to be deceived by the false teachers. To be deceived means to be tricked or misled by lies. In today's study of 2 Corinthians, we will hear what Paul had to say to these disobedient people. Even though he didn't like to talk about himself, Paul felt that it was time for him to boldly defend the fact that he was a true apostle of Jesus Christ, so that the straying Corinthians would come to their senses and obey the truths of Paul's teaching.

One of the lies that the false teachers were spreading was that Paul was very bold and forceful in his letters, but when he actually saw them face to face, he was scared and timid. In other words, they were saying that his "bark was worse than his bite." Paul explained that he was meek and gentle when he spoke with them because he wanted to be like Christ. Christ did not defend Himself when He was falsely accused. Paul had no desire to frighten the Corinthians into changing, so he gently pleaded with them to understand how the false teachers had blinded them from the truth. However, Paul knew that his boldness and forcefulness would later be needed to silence the false teachers when he returned to Corinth. He planned to use his God-given authority as an apostle to punish any disobedience found in the Corinthian church and to destroy every lie that was opposed to the truth of Christ. Paul wanted to spare the deceived Corinthians of this kind of pain, so he urged them to stop and consider that Paul was indeed a true apostle called by Jesus Christ and had been given authority by God to be their spiritual leader.

Paul asked the Corinthians to look at his ministry and then the so-called ministry of the false teachers. The false teachers were busy bragging about themselves and outward things that really didn't matter. They praised themselves for their appearance and their fine-sounding speech. They claimed that because Paul was not outwardly impressive, his words did not really have any meaning. However, Paul was completely different. He did not brag about himself but rather humbly pointed to God and the work that He had done through Paul. God had used Paul to spread the Good News of the Gospel all the way from Antioch to Corinth. It was because of Paul that the Corinthians had been saved. Paul did not brag about himself because he knew that all he had accomplished was through the strength given to him by God. He repeated the prophet Jeremiah's words, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord" (10:17).

Paul went on to confront the deceived Corinthians. He expected them to be faithful to Christ, as they had been when they first gave their lives to Him. They were to patiently wait for His return as an

engaged woman patiently waits for her wedding. During the time of engagement, a bride is to be entirely devoted to her fiancé, not dating other men. However, like an unfaithful bride-to-be, these Corinthians were not remaining devoted to Christ and the truth taught to them by Paul. They were instead following the false teachers and buying into their lies. Paul said in no uncertain terms that the false teachers were actually servants of Satan whose main goal is to deceive and destroy people. They were definitely not the wise men they thought themselves to be.

Despite the evil of the false teachers, many Corinthians had been convinced by their boasting. To boast is to brag or take pride in something. Paul stated that if he wanted to, he could boast about many things, as well. However, he chose to do the exact opposite of what the false teachers were doing. Instead of pointing out all of his strengths, he boasted in the Lord by being very honest about his weaknesses. Paul listed all the times of weakness in his ministry, not his moments of strength and glory. He talked about being in prison and being beaten down with whips, rods, and stones. He mentioned being in constant danger of the threat of death. He suffered greatly in his service for Christ. He was often cold, naked, hungry, and thirsty. In addition, he was always burdened for all the churches. He ached for their needs and grieved for their sins. Paul knew that God had called him to suffer for Jesus' sake and that God did not want him to forget that he was weak and in need of God's power and grace. God even allowed Paul to suffer in a very personal way about which we don't know. He referred to it as his "thorn in the flesh" that God had given him so that he would not become proud of all the things God had shown him and done through him. He prayed three times that God would remove this thorn in the flesh, and God finally lovingly answered, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (12:9a). Paul responded by saying, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" (12:9b). Paul knew that when he was weak, God's power working through him would be evident. God would get all the glory and people would not be drawn to a mere man but to a magnificent and all-powerful God who can save people from their sins and give them the hope of eternal life. It was God's power clearly working through Paul that proved that he was a true apostle of Jesus Christ.

Don't be like the disobedient Corinthians who were deceived by false teaching. The truth of Christ taught by the apostles is written down for you in the Bible. If anyone teaches you something different from what the Bible says, reject it as a lie from Satan. Cling to God's Word and know it well, and then you will not be deceived. In addition, realize that God's power can shine through your life in the areas where you are weak. Like Paul, rejoice in your weaknesses so that you and others may see how gracious and strong God truly is.



#### Aim Questions




1. **Why did Paul give a defense of his apostleship to the Corinthians?** *(So that the Corinthians would no longer be deceived by false teachers.)*
2. **What does it mean to be deceived?** *(To be tricked or misled by lies.)*
3. **How did the Corinthians become deceived by false apostles?** *(They listened to their teachings, even though they were different from Paul's apostolic teaching.)*
4. **What does it mean to boast?** *(To brag, or take pride in something.)*
5. **In what did the false apostles boast? In what did Paul boast?** *(The false apostles boasted in themselves—in their outward appearance and speech; Paul boasted in the Lord—in His grace and power in Paul's life.)*
6. **What is the devil always trying to do?** *(To deceive and destroy people.)*
7. **How do we know that Paul was an apostle?** *(Because God's power worked through Paul as an apostle.)*
8. **How can we keep from being deceived?** *(By cling only to God's Word, which is the truth revealed through God's apostles.)*






#### Look:



① **Finding the Fake (Worksheet).**   Ask the students if they can discern the truth based on what is in the Bible. Use the worksheet to test the students' abilities to find the false teaching. Talk about what we should do when we discover false teaching, **2CO06.GF2**.

 ① **To Tell the Truth (Game).** ,  Set up this game similar to the old TV game show “To Tell the Truth.”

1. A panel of three teachers wearing large name tags (True Teacher #1, True Teacher #2, and True Teacher #3) each claim, “I am a true teacher of the Gospel.”
2. Another teacher asks questions such as: “True teacher # 1: What does Jesus teach concerning...in the Bible passage...” These questions should be directly from Scripture.
3. Only one teacher answers each question completely correctly.
4. The others give a deceitful answer that sounds good but is not exactly what Scripture says.
5. Half of the students are allowed to use their Bibles to look up the references to see who is telling the truth. The other half only listens.
6. After four or five questions, let the students write down who they believe the “True Gospel Teacher” is. Have them stand to show their vote. The students who used their Bibles will be sure, while those who did not use their Bibles will not be sure. Make sure they understand that knowing their Bibles will help them to be sure of the truth.

 ① **Why Believe Paul? (Discussion).** ,  Review the passage and extract the reasons that the Corinthians should have believed Paul. Write a list on the board as the students come up with ideas.

 ① **Clinging to God’s Word (Activity).** ,  You will need:

verses from **2CO06.GF3 Pgs. 1-3** copied or pasted onto cardstock  
steel washers  
aluminum washers  
glue  
strong magnet  
a board or table or poster board

Cut the verses apart and cut another circle for the back. Some verses are “correct” while others are changed slightly. **Correct verses:** Psalm 106:1; Proverbs 3:5, 6; Matthew 26:41; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Place steel washers in between the two pieces of the “correct” verses and glue together. **Incorrect verses:** James 4:7; Proverbs 28:13; Romans 10:13; 1 John 5:3; Philippians 4:6. Place aluminum washers in between the two pieces of the “incorrect” verses and glue together. Hold the poster board up (this can have a picture of a Bible drawn on it). Have a strong magnet held to the back of the board. Discuss with the students how false teachers had come to Corinth and deceived many believers. Explain to them that today there are false teachers who try to deceive believers, as well. Explain that, by clinging to the truth of God’s Word we will know what truth is. We need to compare the teachings of men to the truth of God’s Word. Have the students pick a verse and read it out loud. Ask the student if this is what God’s Word says. Have the student try to stick the verse to the board. If it sticks, this is what God’s Word says. If the verse does not stick, have the student look up the verse to see what it really says.

 ② **Paul’s Brag Book (Craft/Worksheet).** ,  Each student will need:

**2CO06.GF4 Pgs. 1-6** duplex-copied and assembled into a booklet  
glue  
coloring crayons or markers

Review the following verses with the students:

“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:9, 10).



Have the students remove the center page and cut out all the pictures with their captions. Then have them glue them onto the pages of “Paul’s Brag Book.” Next, have them categorize the pictures in the four sections of the book under insults, hardships, persecutions, or difficulties. Students may decorate as time allows.



 ② **Power From Above (Craft)**. ,  Each student will need:



**2CO06.GF5** copied onto cardstock  
scissors  
glue  
crayons or colored markers




Have the students follow the directions on the page to complete their crafts. Discuss how this picture illustrates the meaning of 2 Corinthians 12:9.

 ➤ **2 Corinthians 12:9 (Word Search)**. ,  Circle the words in the word search, then write the word in the spaces to complete the verse, **2CO06.GF6 Pg. 1**. Answer Key: **2CO06.GF6 Pg. 2**.

 ➤ **Red Letter, Green Letter (Memory Game)**.  The object of this game is to understand as well as memorize the verse. Ask the students to raise their hands if they have a red-letter edition of the Bible. (If they don't know, they can look in one of the Gospels). Ask them what the red letters signify. Ask the students to guess how many red-letter verses there are in 2 Corinthians. (Believe it or not, there is one!) Ask the students to look for it in their red-letter Bibles. Have a student read the words that the Lord spoke to Paul. Ask them how the "red-letter guys" knew that these words should be in red. Discuss what Paul had asked the Lord to do (remove his thorn in the flesh). When the Lord answered in the way that He did, was He really saying yes or no? Have the students repeat all of 2 Corinthians 12:9 several times. Write it on the board for reference. Now line the students up against one wall of the room (facing the opposite wall). Have a teacher at the other side of the room. Play a game like Red Light, Green Light. Unlike this game, however, the teacher should face the students all the time. The teacher will call out phrases from the verse (mix them up). Anyone who moves forward during "red letter" words must go all the way back. The students may advance during the "green letter" part of the verse (Paul's words). When a student makes it as far as the teacher, he or she becomes the new leader and may call out phrases from the verse.

 ➤ **Them's Fightin' Words (Word Search)**.  Have the students find the words that are in bold letters in the puzzle, **2CO06.GF7 Pg. 1**. Ask the students: What is the common theme of these words? Does it surprise you that a gentle guy like Paul would talk like this? Tell them that in Chapter 10 of 2 Corinthians, Paul changes his tone and begins to address a group of Christians in the church who have been deceived by false teachers. Find out why this tough approach was necessary. Answer Key: **2CO06.GF7 Pg. 2**.

 ➤ **Aim Questions (Worksheet)**.  Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2CO06.GF8**.

 ➤ **Passage Review Questions (Worksheet)**. ,  This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **2CO06.GF9 Pgs. 1 & 2**.

 ➤ **2 Corinthians 12:9 (Memory Verse Song)**.  Words and music for today's memory verse are available upon request from Children's Ministry.



## Took:



### ① Engaged Woman (*Object Lesson/Discussion*). , You will need:

inexpensive rings with jewels for each student (available as party favors)

This discussion is best suited for small group time—especially for girls. Give each student a ring. Discuss how sometimes rings aren't just for decoration—they mean something. Ask the students the following questions:

1. What does it mean when a woman wears an engagement ring?
2. How does a woman who is engaged to be married behave differently from one who is “unattached”?
3. What would you think of an engaged woman who dates lots of different men or even flirts with them?

Paul wanted the Corinthians to understand that they were behaving like an engaged woman who chases after other men. He wrote, “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:2, 3). The Corinthian church was ignoring its commitment to Christ and was following the false teachers instead. The Corinthians were being deceived just like Eve when Satan tempted her to sin.

4. If we have decided to follow Christ, how do we keep our commitment strong?
5. How do we prevent our hearts from being deceived?
6. What does “sincere and pure devotion” look like in our lives?
7. How will we behave differently from someone who is not “engaged” to Christ?
8. What will we do and not do?



### ① Measuring (*Object Lesson/Snack*). You will need:

licorice candies (use the ones that are the size of a large straw leaving some full-length and others in random shorter lengths)  
paper towels

1. Divide the class into small table groups.
2. Give each student a paper towel and a piece (any size) of licorice.
3. Put some extra pieces on a paper towel in the center of the table.
4. Instruct the students to measure the licorice.
5. Each student may measure his or her own piece by using any other piece of licorice.
6. When they are finished measuring, have them share their answer with the class in this form, “My piece of licorice is \_\_\_\_\_ pieces of licorice long.”
7. Ask the students if this kind of measuring make any sense at all. Of course not!

Paul said that the false teachers in Corinth were doing the same thing when they “measured” their qualifications as apostles of Christ. Paul said, “We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:12). Even today, many times people of the world ignore the truth of God’s Word and set up their own standards to measure goodness and success. Then they feel proud when they meet those standards! You can see this clearly by how often people measure their own worth by the approval of other people. They measure themselves by themselves. In what ways do people try to gain the approval of others using made-up standards? (Look good, make lots of money, be popular, win contests and honors.) Is it any wonder that when people measure each other this way, they choose celebrities and leaders who deceive them and lie to them just like the false teachers of Corinth? They are measuring themselves and each other by their own standards, not God’s. What tool would we need in order to get measurements of the licorice that mean something? We would need a ruler or yardstick, a single standard that is not determined by the licorice itself. A yardstick is like God’s Word. It’s the accurate and unchanging standard by which we can measure the messages we hear and the effectiveness of our lives. We need to listen to Paul when he said, “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord. For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends” (2 Corinthians 10:17, 18). At the end of this lesson, allow the students to eat the licorice.

① **Portrait of Paul (Continuing Activity).** 🎨, 🦋 This week we have seen how Paul has defended himself against the false teachers who were confusing the Corinthians. Through this defense, we see his continued dedication to preaching the Gospel. Look through the chapters from this week and pull out additional character qualities you discover about Paul:

- Meek (10:1)
- Gentle (10:1)
- Boasts only in the Lord (10:17)
- Not a trained speaker (11:6)
- Knowledgeable (11:6)
- Suffered greatly (11:23-28)
- Strengthened through Christ (12:10)
- Totally committed to the Corinthians (12:15)
- Devoted to the building up of the Corinthians (12:19)

② **Interview with Pastor Earl (Discussion).** 🎨, 🦋 Talk with the students about how Earl Dannen, a pastor at Faith Bible Church, has come to know God's grace that is sufficient and the power that is made perfect in weakness in a very special way. He is blind. Have the students listen as you read aloud what it is like to serve God with this extra challenge, **2CO06.GF10**. It will take approximately 20 minutes to read this interview in its entirety. You may choose to read excerpts, dividing it into two or three sessions, or even continuing next week. If desired, allow students to work quietly on something while they listen. This interview may also be presented as a puppet show, drama, or Pastor Earl's part read from a place where he is unseen. Make sure the students know that Pastor Earl is a real man who truthfully said all these things.

② **Thank You, Lord (Activity).** 🎨, 🦋 Discuss with the students how Paul gave all credit to the Lord for everything. Even as he was defending himself against the false prophets, he saw this boasting as foolishness. Paul had many great accomplishments, but he was always humbled by his service for Christ. Help the students to fill in the blanks on the thank you to Jesus list, **2CO06.GF11**. If you have older students, they can write their own private letter to Jesus, thanking Him for all that they are and all that they have and will do in their lives.

② **God's Power in Weakness (Human Object Lesson).** 🎨, 🦋 Tell the students the story of a contemporary or historical Christian with an extreme disability who has lived out God's power in weakness. Some examples are:

Joni Eareckson-Tada - quadriplegic artist/writer/singer/advocate for disabled people  
Amy Charmichal – missionary to India  
David Brainerd – missionary to the American Indians  
Fanny Crosby – blind hymn writer

You may read a children's biography, show a portion of a video tape, or dramatize an interview where a teacher plays the role of this famous Christian. These interview questions may be used:

1. When and how did you become disabled?
2. When and how did you come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior?
3. How have you seen God's grace through your situation?
4. What are some things that you must depend upon God for that most people take for granted?
5. What unique strengths has God brought to your ministry because of your weakness?

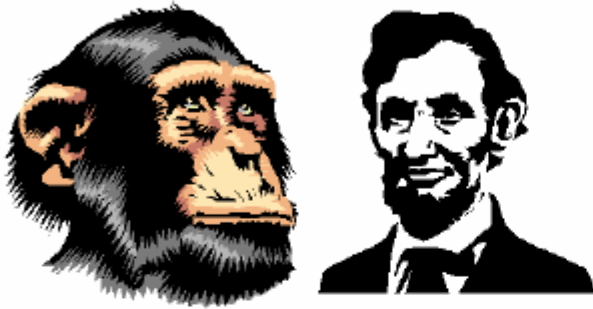
➤ **2 Corinthians One-Sent Take-Home (Review).** 🎨, 🦋 Review today's memory verse with the students and encourage them to master it over the week. Remind the students that those who can say their verse at the beginning of next week's class will be rewarded with the sticker for that lesson. Challenge a new student each week during this time to take a One-Sent Flying Disc and explain to the class the book of 2 Corinthians as he or she has learned it this far. Have him or her explain everything that is on the flying disc and say the verses that correspond with each sticker. This is a great review of the outline for 2 Corinthians, and it will help prepare the students to use the flying disc as a tool for explaining Paul's ministry to others who ask about the flying disc.

# Original Sin



# Find The Fake

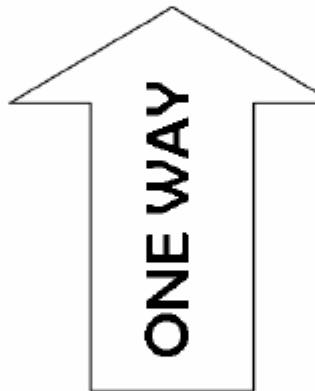
How can we tell if something is truth? Look at the things on this page and see if you can discover the lies. If you think you discover something that is not true, find the Bible verse which tells the truth next to it.



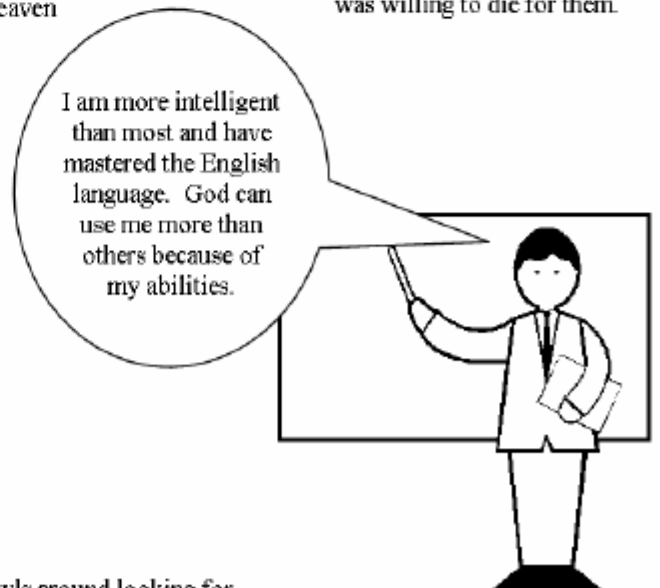
Man evolved from apes



Jesus loved the sinners of the world so much that He was willing to die for them.



There is only one way to heaven



Satan prowls around looking for someone to devour.

“Some who call on  
the name of the  
Lord will be  
saved.”  
Romans 10:13

“This is love for  
God: to obey some of  
His commands. For  
His commands are  
burdensome.”  
1 John 5:3

“Watch and pray so  
that you will not fall  
into temptation.  
The spirit is willing,  
but the body is  
weak.”  
Matthew 26:41

“Submit yourselves,  
then, to man. Resist  
the devil, and he  
will flee from you.”  
James 4:7

“He who conceals his  
sins prospers, and  
whoever confesses  
and renounces them  
finds mercy.”  
Proverbs 28:13

“Be joyful always; pray  
continually; give thanks  
in all circumstances, for  
this is God’s will for you  
in Christ Jesus.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“Be anxious about everything, and by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

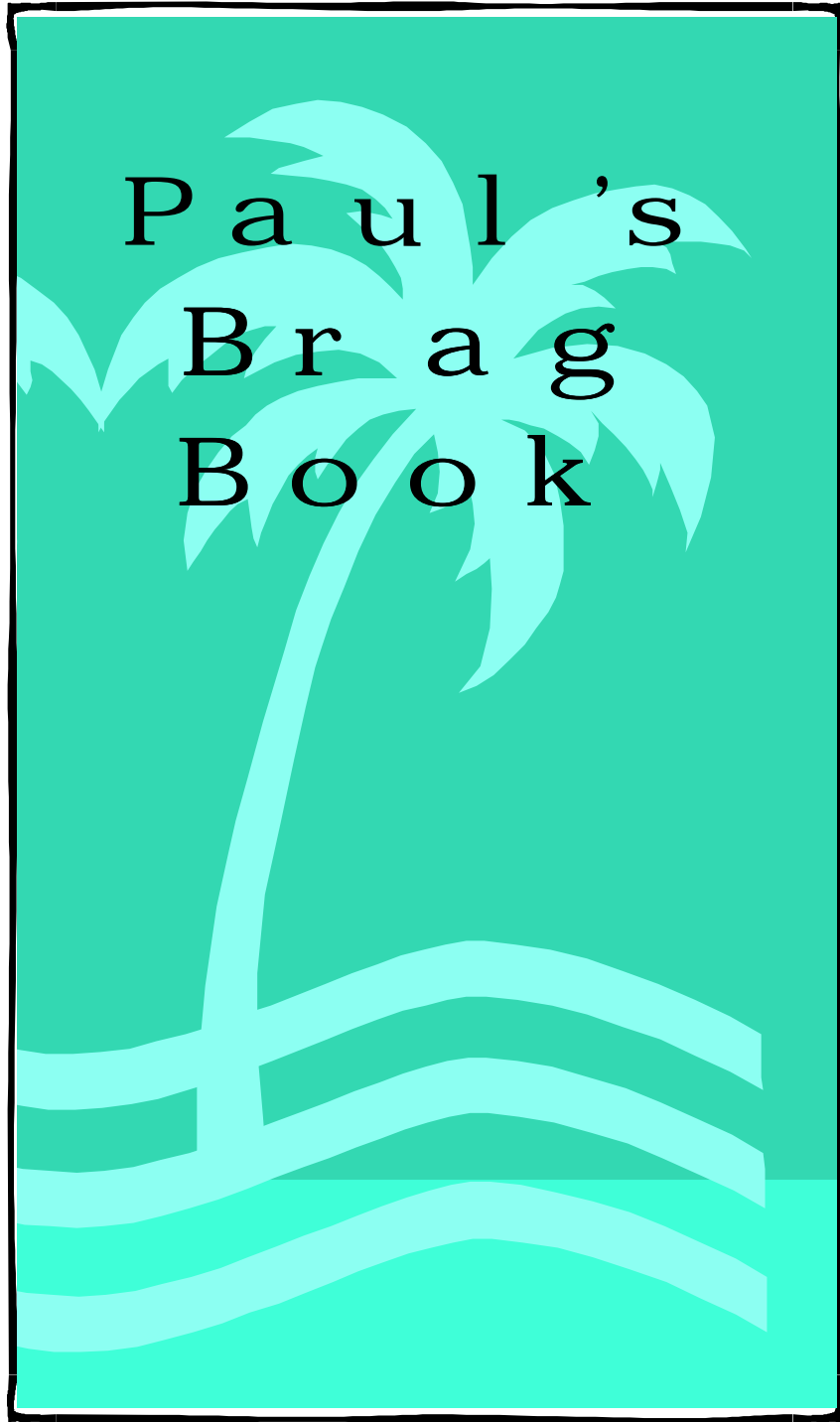
Philippians 4:6

“Praise the Lord.  
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
His love endures forever.”

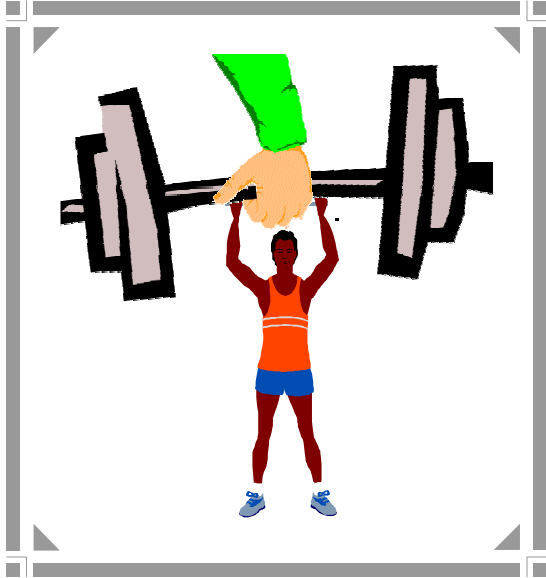
Psalms 106:1

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5, 6



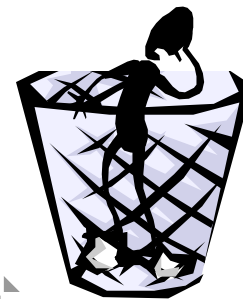
*"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you,  
for My power is made perfect in weakness.'  
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my  
weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*



*That is why, for Christ's sake,  
I delight in weaknesses,  
in **insults**,  
in **hardships**,  
in **persecutions**,  
in **difficulties**.*

*For when I am weak, then I am strong."  
(12:9, 10)*

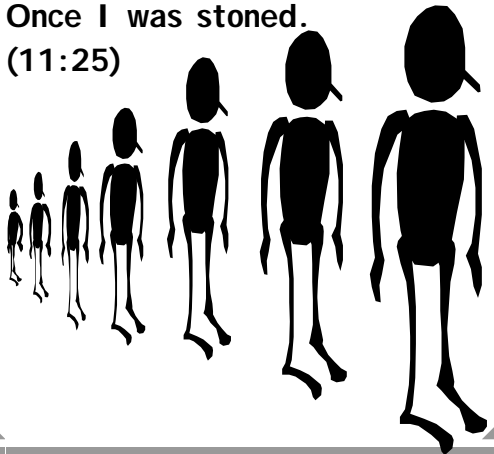
## DIFFICULTIES



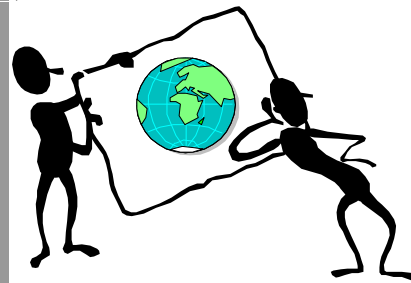
In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands. (11:32,33)

# PERSECUTIONS

Once I was stoned.  
(11:25)



# INSULTS



Some people... think that  
we live by the standards  
of this world. (10:2)

# HARDSHIPS



Hard work  
(11:23,27)

Exposed to death again  
and again. (11:23)

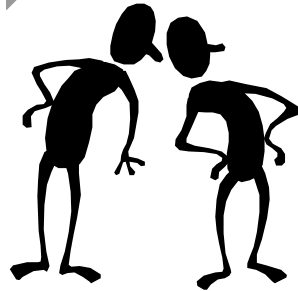
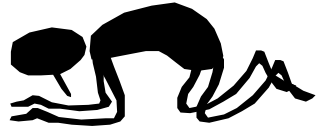


In danger from  
bandits. (11:26)





We've known hunger and thirst. (11:27)

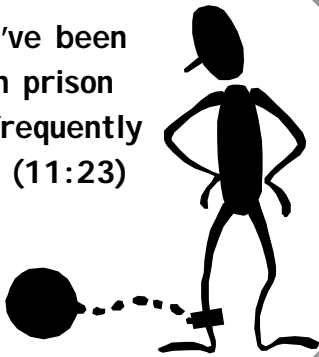


I lowered myself by preaching the Gospel free of charge. (11:7)

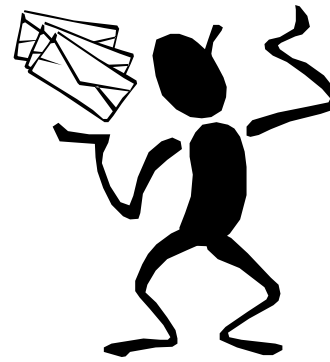


I have a thorn in the flesh. (12:7)

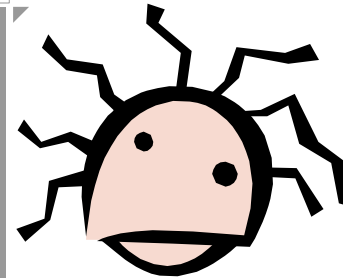
I've been in prison frequently. (11:23)



I've been severely beaten many times. (11:23)



Some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing." (10:10)

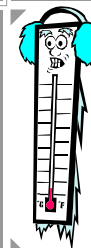


I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. (11:28)

I have been constantly on the move. (11:26)

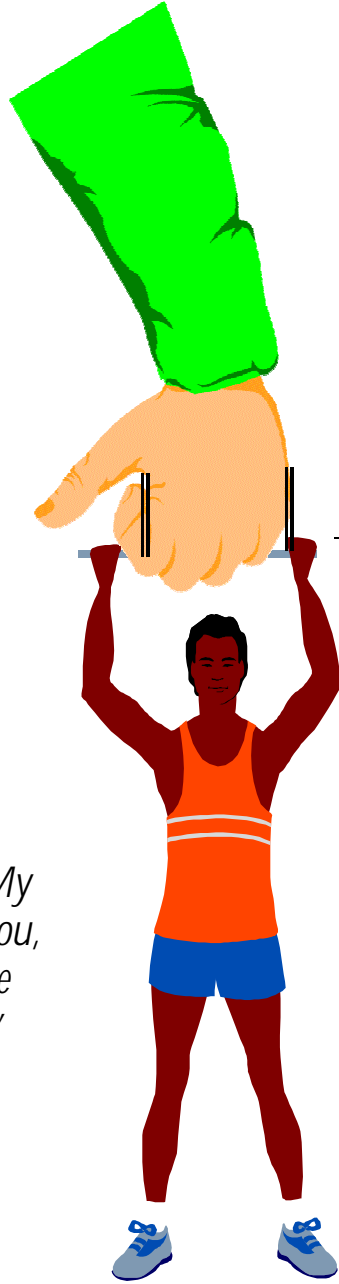


Shipwrecked - I spent a night and a day in the open sea. (11:25)



I have been cold and naked.

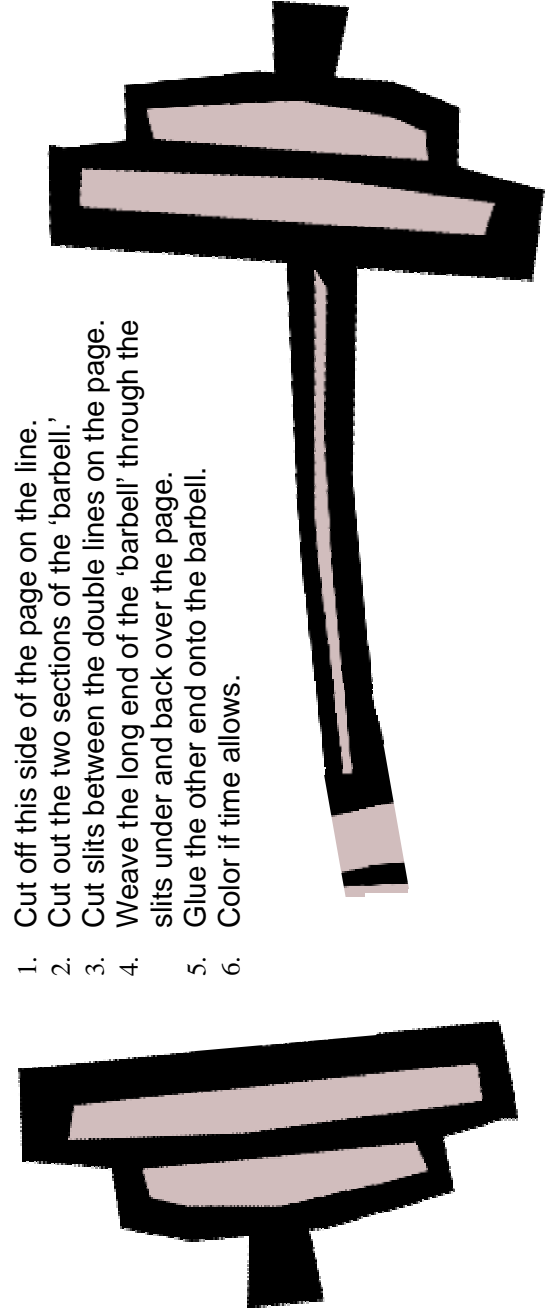
# Power From Above



*"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.'*

*Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*

2 Corinthians 12: 9



1. Cut off this side of the page on the line.
2. Cut out the two sections of the 'barbell.'
3. Cut slits between the double lines on the page.
4. Weave the long end of the 'barbell' through the slits under and back over the page.
5. Glue the other end onto the barbell.
6. Color if time allows.

## 2 Corinthians 12:9

W	P	C	J	T	T	R	P	P	I	W	F	A	W	L
M	E	B	L	S	Y	E	E	F	X	N	G	L	X	D
A	D	A	A	E	O	W	R	X	V	H	N	L	P	B
D	Y	O	K	R	T	O	F	Y	L	D	A	L	G	T
E	B	O	Y	N	I	P	E	R	O	M	G	K	N	V
F	O	R	U	N	E	J	C	Y	A	M	F	E	C	B
E	E	U	H	B	T	S	T	N	W	Y	I	H	H	V
S	C	D	R	U	W	G	S	I	W	C	R	M	L	P
P	A	A	B	F	P	G	L	S	I	I	A	B	S	E
I	K	I	R	Z	Q	L	L	F	S	A	B	O	U	T
Z	Y	Z	D	G	Y	V	F	T	E	X	E	Z	J	Q
T	U	S	S	L	B	U	S	B	G	A	X	E	L	L
D	A	H	T	U	S	T	H	E	R	E	F	O	R	E
H	B	H	J	H	A	I	G	R	S	Y	U	H	T	R
N	E	V	T	D	M	D	U	W	P	A	T	N	J	V

ABOUT	GLADLY	PERFECT
ALL	GRACE	POWER
BOAST	MADE	REST
BUT	MAY	SAID
CHRIST'S	MORE	SUFFICIENT
FOR	YOU	THAT
THEREFORE	WEAKNESS	WILL

Circle the words in the puzzle, then write the words in the spaces below to complete the verse.

“\_\_\_ He \_\_\_ to me, ‘My \_\_\_ is \_\_\_ for  
 \_\_\_, \_\_\_ My \_\_\_ is \_\_\_ in  
 \_\_\_.’ \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ the  
 \_\_\_ my \_\_\_, so \_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ power \_\_\_ on me.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

## 2 Corinthians 12:9—Answer Key

W P C J T E R P P I W F A W L

M E B L S Y E E F X N G L X D

A D A E O W R X V H N L P B

D Y O K R T O F Y L D A L G T

E B O Y N I P E R O M G K N V

F O R U N E J C Y A M F E C B

E E U H B T S T N W Y I H H V

S C D R U W G S I W C R M L P

P A A B E P G L S I A B S E

I K I R Z Q L L E S A B O U T

Z Y Z D G Y V E T E X E Z J Q

T U S S L B U S B G A X E L L

D A H T U S T H E R E F O R E

H B H T H A I G R S Y U H T R

N E V T D M D U W P A T N J V

ABOUT	GLADLY	PERFECT
ALL	GRACE	POWER
BOAST	MADE	REST
BUT	MAY	SAID
CHRIST'S	MORE	SUFFICIENT
FOR	YOU	THAT
THEREFORE	WEAKNESS	WILL

Circle the words in the puzzle, then write the words in the spaces below to complete the verse.

*“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”*

2 Corinthians 12:9

# Them's Fightin' Words

*“For though we live in the world, we do not **wage war** as the world does. The **weapons** we **fight** with are not the **weapons** of the world. On the contrary, they have divine **power** to **demolish strongholds**. We **demolish arguments** and every **pretension** that sets itself up **against** the knowledge of God, and we take **captive** every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to **punish** every act of **disobedience**, once your obedience is complete.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)*

Find the words from the passage above that are in bold.  
(Words that are repeated will only be found once).

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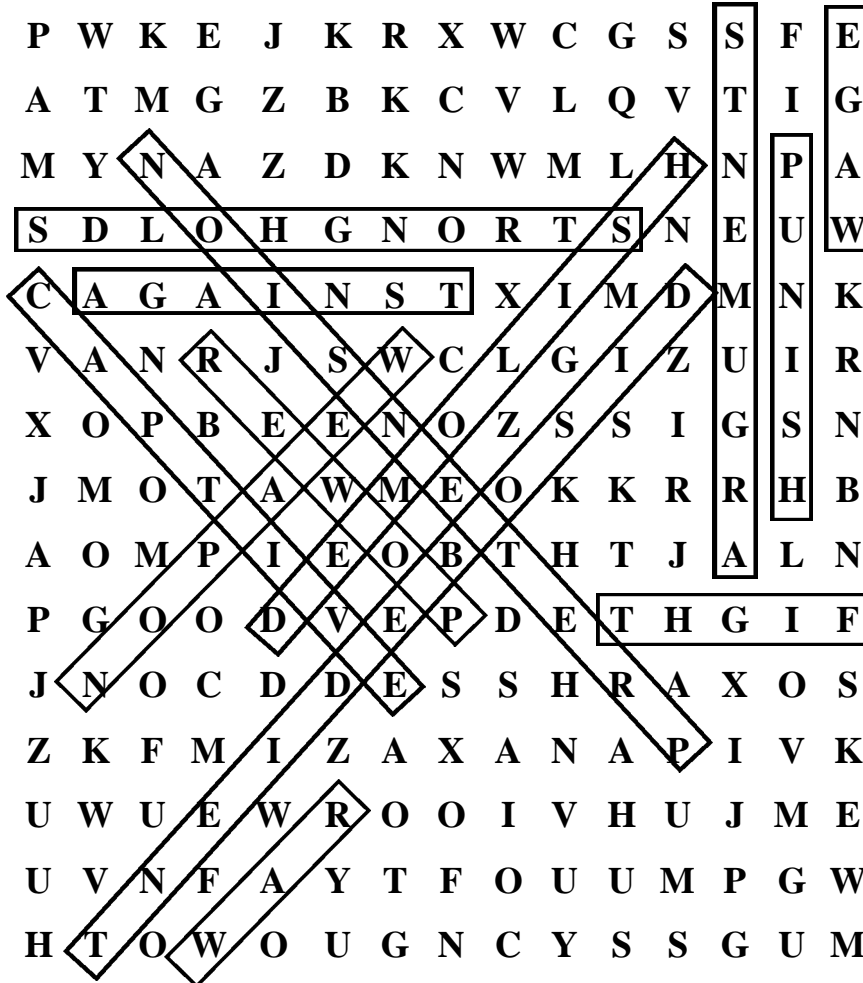
*****
* P W K E J K R X W C G S S F E *
* A T M G Z B K C V L Q V T I G *
* M Y N A Z D K N W M L H N P A *
* S D L O H G N O R T S N E U W *
* C A G A I N S T X I M D M N K *
* V A N R J S W C L G I Z U I R *
* X O P B E E N O Z S S I G S N *
* J M O T A W M E O K K R R H B *
* A O M P I E O B T H T J A L N *
* P G O O D V E P D E T H G I F *
* J N O C D D E S S H R A X O S *
* Z K F M I Z A X A N A P I V K *
* U W U E W R O O I V H U J M E *
* U V N F A Y T F O U U M P G W *
* H T O W O U G N C Y S S G U M *
*****

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What is the common theme of these words?

# Them's Fightin' Words

## Answer Key



AGAINST	ARGUMENTS	CAPTIVE
DEMOLISH	DISOBEDIENT	FIGHT
POWER	PRETENSION	PUNISH
STRONGHOLDS	WAGE	WAR
WEAPON		

# Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Why did Paul give a defense of his apostleship to the Corinthians?
2. What does it mean to be deceived?
3. How did the Corinthians become deceived by false apostles?
4. What does it mean to boast?
5. In what did the false apostles boast? In what did Paul boast?
6. What is the devil always trying to do?
7. How do we know that Paul was an apostle?
8. How can we keep from being deceived?

*Anything that anyone teaches should be compared to the teachings of the apostles in the New Testament. If it is different from what the apostles taught, it is a lie, and the devil would want you to believe it. So know your Bible and do not be deceived.*



*"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

## **Passage Review Questions**

### **2 Corinthians 10:1 - 12:13**

How did Paul appeal to the Corinthian church? (10:1)

How did Paul think that he would have to approach the Corinthians? (10:2)

By whose standard do Christians live and by whose standard do Christians not live? (10:2, 3)

What kind of power do Christians have in battle? (10:4)

What types of battles do Christians fight on a daily basis? (10:4-6)

What was Paul's intention in sending letters to the Corinthian church? (10:7-11)

How did Paul respond to people who attacked his character?  
(10:11)

What does Paul call people who think their lives are the  
standard for living? (10:12)

What did Paul hope happened as a result of the Corinthian  
believers living out the Gospel? (10:13-15)

In and to whom should men give their praise or boast? (10:17)

Who does Paul say is really the approved or faithful servant?  
(10:18)

To whom does Paul compare the Corinthians lack of devotion  
to Christ? (11:1-3)

Paul describes what was going on in the Corinthian church. In  
your own words, describe what is happening. (11:4)

How does Paul compare himself to the false teachers within the  
church? (11:5, 6)

What is Paul's point in this passage (9b)? (11:7-9)

Paul speaks very passionately in this next passage. Summarize  
what he is saying. (11:10-15)

Paul lists some of the sufferings that he has endured for the  
cause of Christ. List those below. (11:22-29)

## INTERVIEW WITH PASTOR EARL

**Q. I see that you carry a long, white stick when you walk around.**

A. Yes, his name is Fred. I use this white cane for two reasons. One is to let you know that I can't see you, and the other is so I won't fall down steps and run into other things. The cane is like a long finger to let me know what's out there. It's been about 10 years now that I've used that cane because of my wife's encouragement. She said people don't know that you can't see, and they approach you like you can. And it has helped me not to fall into holes too often.

**Q. When and how did you become blind?**

A. I have what's called Retinitis Pigmentosa which is a deterioration of the retina. When I entered first grade back in Minnesota, we discovered that I couldn't see the chalkboard and I had to sit in the first row of seats in order to get an idea of what was on the board. When I learned to read, I had to focus about four or five inches from the page. We didn't know what I had at the time and as life went on and school went on, I just kind of did what everyone else did. It was a little hard to shoot a B.B. gun; I did take out a few windows - but my parents were understanding.

When I turned 15, it was a very dramatic year for me. That was the year that most students take Driver's Ed—and I took Driver's Ed like everybody else. I went to take my driving test, and the examiner put me up to the eye examining machine and asked, "What can you see?" and I said, "the big E and the top two lines." He said, "Earl, I think it's wise that we here in the State of Minnesota *not* issue you a driver's license." And you better be thankful to that man! So that was a pretty dramatic day when I was informed that I would not be permitted to drive a car. We lived 7 miles from town, and independence to a 15 or 16 year old is very, very important. I became aware that day that life was going to be very different for me. That was the first thing. The second thing that happened was that I went to see an eye doctor who for the first time diagnosed what I had. Prior to that, they tried to do exercises, tried various glasses; we traveled everywhere to figure out what was really going on. That day, Dr. Kennedy said, "Mr. and Mrs. Dannen, Earl has Retinitis Pigmentosa. There's no cure for it, and it's just going to progressively get worse. The third thing that happened that year is that I had to switch from reading normal print material to large print books. I was carrying books around that were as big as a kitchen cutting board. Pretty obvious in high school, but that's what I had to do. So those three things all happened in a period of about 4 or 5 months and life began to change for me pretty dramatically then.

When you hear someone talk about being blind, something you need to know is that 92% of blind people see *something*. There's only 8% of blind people that see totally black. To be legally blind means that you have 200 over 20 vision corrected. You can't get it any better than that. For me right now, I basically see shadows, so if you'd like to take a nap, I couldn't tell it; just don't snore too loud! So life goes on for me basically seeing things very minimally, and as time goes on, it progressively gets worse.

**Q. When and how did you come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior?**

A. My goal in life was to farm. I had a plan to raise 1,200 baby pigs a year. I grew up on a farm and loved the life. I was raising purebred Duroc hogs, feeding sheep, and growing crops—so my goal was to stay there. I grew up in a God-oriented home, and my folks always took me to church. They believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. I knew about God. I saw through creation, through birth, through death, that God was there. But I did not know Him. As high school years went on, and as I began to realize how different I was from other people, resentment and bitterness began to grow in my heart and in my life. I was angry at God because He allowed this in my life, and I knew He had the power to change it, but He chose not to. So as the months and years went on, bitterness and depression grew. Finally, after I graduated from high school my dad and people from State Services for the Blind sat down with me and said, "You know, it might be best for you to get a college degree. If you get that degree and you still want to come back and farm, we can work that out."

So I left a town of 750 people—32 in my graduating class—400 in the whole school—12 grades. I left there and went down to St. Paul-Minneapolis to the University of Minnesota—55,000 students. My number was 657413. They didn't know my name there—just my number. Minneapolis was a large city and I went down there by myself. It was also at that time that I went from reading even large print books to listening to everything on tape. This was in the early '60s and they didn't have CDs. They didn't have cassette tapes. They had these massive 7-inch reels and some of my books had 30 tapes. I was away from home, away from my family, away from my school. Bitterness, anger, and depression continued to grow. Suicide was an option. I considered it seriously, and I considered it often. Yet I didn't want to disappoint my parents or my family. So I just kind of slugged it out—quarter after quarter.

It was in the winter quarter of my second year that two guys I didn't know came by my room on Tuesday, January 16, 1965. I had met Jay and Gary the night before on the floor. We had a small Bible Study. I was always interested in talking about the Bible. They came back that Tuesday afternoon and asked, "Are you interested in talking about spiritual things?" I said, "Always—I'm always interested in that." Well, they began to go through some passages of Scripture. They used Romans 3:23. "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." I knew I was a sinner. I knew I was falling short of what God desired. They shared Romans 6:23. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ my Lord." I had heard about Jesus Christ my whole life, and I had heard that He was a gift, but I had never responded to that. Then to Romans 5:8 where it says, "But God proved His love in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Two thousand years earlier, Christ had gone to the cross and died for my sins personally. Now, I had been baptized, I went to Sunday School, we had Catechism in our church every Saturday afternoon all through the winter. (Boy, it sure took away from my sliding time!) I was involved in youth group, and I believed in God. But God was that person way out there, way off in the distance, kind of like He had gotten this clock running and stepped back and just let it run. So I believed in God, but here they were talking about knowing Him personally—that Christ had died for me—2,000 years ago. Then they took me to John 1:12: "But as many as received Christ, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe on His name." Then they shared with me Romans 10: 9: "If we believe in our heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead and confess with our mouth, we shall be saved." Well, that word *believe* here means to trust in, totally rely upon, and not just to give an intellectual ascent—not a head knowledge of who Christ is but to have a total commitment to and a total trust in. They then took me to "by grace you have been saved through faith—not of yourselves, it is the gift of God—not of works lest any man should boast."

Now I was a pretty good guy growing up, and yet my goal was to become good enough to please God. And you know, receiving Christ was something I thought just kind of...happens. These two guys told me I was a sinner, that the wages for my sin was death, and that I was separated from God. And now they were telling me that God, through His grace, was extending His gift of salvation to me, and that my responsibility was either to reject it (turn away from it), or to accept it. One of the guys took his watch off his hand and said, "Earl, if I handed you this watch, when does it become yours?" I said, "When I take it from you; when I receive it as a gift. That's when it becomes mine." And he said, "That's the same thing with Jesus Christ. He is a gift offered to you. In your heart, would you trust Him to be your Savior and your Lord?" That day in my dorm room, on my bed, I just knelt and bowed my head and prayed right there—confessing my sin, acknowledging Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, giving Him permission to do with my life whatever He wanted. *Whatever He wanted.* Now there was no big emotional experience, no bells rang, no lightning flashed or anything. I just lifted my head. And yet, I was completely aware that I had made a decision that day that would redirect my life—totally change my life. I didn't know how, but I was aware that I had come to know the living God. So God, in His grace, gives us His salvation, but we need to respond to it and acknowledge it. It's not just intellectual ascent. It is entrusting yourself *into* Him.

Here's an illustration I like to use to make a point of this: My dad used to hire these crop dusters to spray the corn and oats. I don't know if you've seen these guys fly, but they often have a little single-engine plane, and they fly probably 3 feet over the top of the corn or the grain. That's to get the greatest amount of air movement to spread the spray down into the crops to get good coverage. They'd get to the end of the field, and there'd be a fence and they'd zip up over it, or there'd be a power line, and they'd go underneath it. It's fascinating to watch them fly, isn't it? They'd go up and loop around and then come back down. One day, I said, "Dad, wouldn't you like to fly in one of those? My dad was a good mechanic and he knew aerodynamics but he said, "I'm never getting in one of those...never! Even though I understand how they fly, I will never get in one of those."

Well, as time went on, I left home and I was single. One day I think Dad made a foolish promise. He said, "Earl, if you ever get married, I'll fly to your wedding." Well, he didn't know what he was really saying. But, back in 1978, I held him to that. He bought a ticket, drove to Minneapolis, parked his car, walked into the terminal, checked his bag, and he began walking. Then he walked down that infamous ramp. There was a crack there a half-inch wide that he had to step over. That crack was the difference between the ramp and the airplane. And that day he trusted in airplanes. That day he went from intellectually understanding how an airplane flew to putting himself in that plane—putting that seatbelt on and just sitting there. He didn't do one thing to contribute to that thing leaving the ground. That day he went from intellectually affirming what an airplane was to trusting in an airplane. That day in January, that is what happened to me. I went from intellectually understanding the Bible and knowing Bible verses and talking about Christ to fully entrusting myself to Him and putting my life into His care and keeping.

**Q. God has used 2 Corinthians 12 dramatically in your life. Can you tell us about that?**

A. 2 Corinthians 12 is the pivotal passage in my life. Some three weeks after I trusted Christ, I was reading my Bible, and God brought me to this passage. It was very difficult. I had a special pair of glasses and I had to focus about an inch and a half away. In chapter 12, verses 1-6, Paul talks about the revelation that was given to him. There's a possibility he went to the third heaven. Remember Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus? He wasn't one of the 12 who were chosen by Christ—he was added on. And so, there were incredible things that God had done in Paul's life—  
incredible spiritual things.

Then he comes down to verse 7. "Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelation given to me, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, to keep me from exalting myself." This word exalting here means to "lift up" or "lift above" and, you know, to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to. God said, "To keep you from exalting yourself, I'm going to give you a thorn in the flesh." Now, what was Paul's thorn in the flesh? We're not sure what it was. Some speculate that it was spiritual opposition from leaders in the church. Some speculate that it was an eye condition. Some people speculate because of all of his beatings and imprisonments and shipwrecks that he had huge physical problems. But it doesn't say what his thorn in the flesh was. We cannot determine, and I think that's of God. Otherwise we would identify with it and say, "I've got it just like Paul." No, I think God gave him this thorn, and God has given us thorns like a continual thorn that's in your shoe—as if every step you take is a constant reminder. What's the reminder for Paul? The reminder is: "Stay humble." God was teaching Paul humility.

Now, as you see me walk around here and do things, you notice how many people it takes to help me. People help me get on the stage or down off the stage. I have someone read Scripture aloud for me. I have people drive me. I have people read to me and write things for me. It's not something that I'd normally choose. And yet God has taught me to stand against my pride and ask people to help me—to humble myself and ask them to give of their energy, their time, and their spiritual giftedness, to minister alongside of me and with me. You know, as I ask people to read to me or ask people to drive me, what that means is we end up having more time to spend together. We get to talk about spiritual things, and we have an opportunity for a relationship that we may not have if I could do these things for myself. And so, God uses the thorn in the flesh to humble me and to give me opportunity to be with other people and have relationships with them.

Now, in verse 8, Paul says, “Concerning these things, I entreated three times the Lord, to remove it from me.” You know, after I met Christ, I prayed three times that God would heal me. That He would take away my blindness and give me normal vision. And here Paul himself prays three times that God would remove this thorn from him. Now when God answers prayer, He answers in three ways. He says “yes” and He does it, He says “No, I will wait awhile,” or thirdly, He says “No. I want to teach you and help you through this.” God in His sovereignty said, “Paul, I want your thorn to remain.” In today’s society, and in the Christian world, we hear the health/wealth gospel of riches; you know, where if you have enough faith, God will give you what you ask for. Is there anyone who had more faith than Paul? Probably not. So it wasn’t an issue of Paul’s faith. The issue here is God’s choice, God’s will. And as we pray, we need to be praying that God’s will would be done and that He would get glory out of what is happening in our lives. That should be the motivation of our prayer—not that our pain would be removed, but rather that God would do His will through this pain.

Now, let’s look at verse 9. What’s the answer to Paul’s prayer? The Lord said, “My grace is sufficient for you for My power is made perfect [or complete] in your weakness.” His grace, His blessing is what Paul would receive, and the Lord’s grace is sufficient. Let me give you another word rather than sufficient. Enough. The Lord’s grace is enough. It’s the supply we need. So Paul’s attitude moves from wanting to be removed from the suffering to accepting the Lord’s grace. Seeing the power that is in the Lord, and seeing what He’ll do in his life. Paul goes from praying to boasting. He says, “I will rather then, boast in my weakness that the power of Christ would show forth in me.” So Paul is saying, “I will glory in my weakness in my infirmity, in my distress.” Why? “So that the power of Christ would dwell in me.” Now, this word, “power,” in verse 9 is an interesting word picture. The Greek word is the root word for dynamite or dynamo. Now, often when we think of dynamite, there’s this huge explosion. All this power is expended and there’s noise and all this stuff, and then it’s gone. Yet, I think there’s a more accurate illustration of this power—not in one big explosion but in a continuous flow. I have the advantage of living 90 miles from one of the largest dams in the world, Grand Coulee. And if you go to Grand Coulee, you see these turbines creating electricity, a continuous flow of electricity flowing throughout our homes. If we had a 50-horse electric motor standing here running all this equipment, we’d say “Look at the power in that motor.” But in reality, we need to look at the power in the electricity that is running the motor. Paul is saying, “I’m thankful that I can be that motor so that the world can see the power that’s really in Christ.”

So, in verse 10 he says, “I therefore am content in weakness and insults and in distress, in persecution, in difficulties, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am really strong.” Paul says he learned to be content. He could sit back and relax in who the Lord is. The stuff that bothered me 30 years ago isn’t the stuff that bothers me any more, and yet there are things that I still struggle with because God is continuing to humble me.

**Q. Where has God led you and how have you seen His grace in your ministry?**

A. God’s transforming grace takes problems and turns them into platforms for His glory. When I was a student at the University of Minnesota, my major went from social work to sharing the Gospel. I had the privilege of seeing quite a number of guys trust Christ on my dorm floor as God gave me a purpose for living. I was able to see their lives change and grow and mature. As I graduated, I had four options. I had already squeezed four years into six. I could go to graduate school, I could go on to seminary, I could go out and work for State Services for the Blind, and yet the fourth option was to go into ministry full-time. So I went on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ. God in His grace enabled me as a blind man to do ministry, and for 10 years people paid me to share the Gospel. I was sent to Washington State University—that’s how I came to this area. Then I went on staff at Fourth Memorial Church. The person who hired me said, “Earl, God has taken your problem and turned it into a platform from which you can do ministry so Christ can receive glory from it.” There I worked in the Singles Ministry, and God chose to have me single. Then, in 1980, God gave me different kind of grace or blessing. Nancy and I met and we got married. You know how she’s gifted? She’s gifted differently than I, and her gifts enhance me. So as she reads, as she drives, as she ministers alongside of me, we are helpmates together, serving together. Isn’t God’s grace good? My prayer today is that you would not remember me, but rather you would reflect on God’s grace. That He would take the thorn that may be in your life and really demonstrate His power, His sufficiency, so He could get glory from it.

# Thank You, Lord

I am thankful for your \_\_\_\_\_.

You always \_\_\_\_\_.

When you help me to \_\_\_\_\_, I learn how to depend more and more on you.

I see your work in my life because \_\_\_\_\_.

When I am \_\_\_\_\_, I know that this ability can only come from you.

Thank you for the strength I need when I \_\_\_\_\_.

Help me to \_\_\_\_\_ like you, Lord.

In my weakness, you make me strong.

Thank you for helping me to \_\_\_\_\_.

Your \_\_\_\_\_ comforts me.

I am humbled by your \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord, please forgive me when I \_\_\_\_\_.

Your \_\_\_\_\_ is sufficient for all that I do. Thank you for it.

Lord, please use me to \_\_\_\_\_.

When trials come, I know that you will \_\_\_\_\_, and I can trust you to \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your \_\_\_\_\_. I know when I come to you that you will \_\_\_\_\_ me.

Sincerely yours, \_\_\_\_\_