



SHIFT – 2 Corinthians Series

Life Is Hard, God Is Good

Scripture

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1–11

Questions

- Can you identify with a group of believers undergoing hardship?
- Great pressure?
- Despair?
- Are there such circumstances in your own life?
- Do you know others who are dealing with troubles as well?

What a wonderful reminder we have, that *when*—not *if*—we experience difficult times, it is not unusual for believers. We are told we can expect this! (John 15:18–21) It is a blessing that draws us deeper into relationship with our Savior. He is close to the broken-hearted, and He longs to minister to you and heal you.

Experience

Write down or discuss how you can and will personally draw close to Him, i.e., read His Word, pray, listen to Christian music, etc.

And we are not alone in any suffering, because God comforts us and will comfort us now; with fellowship, through prayer, with music, scripture, circumstances, relationships, peace, and on and on goes the list.

Questions

- How have you ever personally received comfort?
- To whom or what do you turn?
- What has God already placed in your life that has brought you a measure of peace in the past? Write those down and thank God.

Seeing God's faithfulness in our own lives as He has delivered us and comforted us in the past will build and deepen our faith. We often forget those things though, so it's good to write them down and tell others about them; like the 'historical road markers' on highways. Recalling how God has worked in our lives in the past will fuel our courage and strengthen us in present and future tough times.

Experience

Looking back over your life, draw a road map, or time line. Indicate where you can see now, that God was at work in your life. Share at least one of those times.

Observing courage in others can be an example for us. We have Biblical and real world examples of those who have gone before us, and have persevered in trials.

Experience

Think of a person in the Bible or someone you know who dealt with great difficulty or challenge. Write down or discuss how they faced it—Job, Esther, David, Paul. Know that as God was faithful to them, He will also bring you through the challenges in your life.

We can be a living example to those around us, of perseverance and faith. By drawing close to God in times of trouble, and receiving comfort, and passing it on to others, you can draw people to God.

Encouragements

Put your name in this scripture and read it out loud:

Dearest _____,

“Because I am at your right hand, you will not be shaken.

Therefore let your heart be glad and your tongue rejoice...

live in hope, I will not abandon you.”

Your Heavenly Father

Acts 2:25–27

Taking it Home

This week find other scriptures that encourage you—copy them and put them where you will see them—read them out loud with your name in them. Here are some examples:

2 Peter 1:4

Psalm 46:1–3

Romans 8:37–39

Psalm 121:1–8

Isaiah 26:3

Psalm 37:7–11

Isaiah 46:3–4

John 8:12

Isaiah 41:10

1 Corinthians 10:13