

# Your Story

## Out of Control (Wk.4)

### LifeNotes

## TALK IT OVER

### Main Idea

Sometimes God uses our story to remind us who is really in control.

### Key Scriptures

*Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 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 12:7-10*

**God loves us too much to give us too much control.**

**Thorns are "weakeners" that strengthen us.**

**We can set ourselves up for success but the ultimate outcome is His and His choice, and when you embrace that it gives you freedom.**

**- Kelly McTeer**

### Additional Scripture

*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18*

### Start talking.

- Describe a time when you felt things were under control, then life went suddenly sideways.
- What were your initial reactions?
- How have those times shaped you?

### Start thinking.

- Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Why did God give Paul a painful situation?
- What was Paul's initial response to the pain he was walking through?
- How was God's "grace sufficient", and His "power made perfect"?
- Why doesn't Paul push back against God's response?

### Start sharing.

- What has been a recent "thorn in your flesh"?
- How has it impacted your relationship with Christ?
- What are some ways you have seen God's grace and power through difficult and painful situations?
- What lessons do take away from Paul's response to Jesus?

### Start doing.

- Paul says that he, "will boast all the more gladly". The Greek word for "boast" literally means to: ascribe glory to, and on account of; to rejoice; to worship. You and I may not be able to control our circumstances, but we can choose how we respond. Each day this week, begin with praising God for at least three things He is and/or He is doing in your life.
- Write 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 on an index card and put it somewhere prominent—your car, your bathroom mirror, above your kitchen sink, etc.—so that you can read it and recite it daily.

### Closing prayer.

Of the few things under our control, leaning in to Christ, to His will, His purpose, and to His power are all choices we are given the freedom to make. Pray that God would continue to make His grace sufficient for you and that He would give you the strength to stand the trial as His power is made perfect in you.