

01.03.2015 THE THORN IN THE FLESH (preacher: Dave Webb-Peploe)

LIFE APPLICATION

PASSAGE: 2 CORINTHIANS 12 vs 1-13

LAUNCH

- Think of a problem from your youth or childhood that was like a thorn to you. What was it? How did it hurt? What happened in the end? (this is an icebreaker so my suggestion is that the problem is not too awful)

DISCOVERY

- As Paul recounts the vision in the first few verses of chapter 12, what key principles is he trying to teach?
- Paul was given the thorn so as not to think too highly of himself. What sort of areas can we be tempted to think too highly of ourselves? In what ways can this hold up the growth of Christ's kingdom?

UNDERSTANDING

- Describe a recent situation in which you needed to draw on God's strength because you had none of your own?
- What are some of the tell tale signs of spiritual pride? How do we minimise the risk of this occurring?
- Have you experienced an area of life when God said no. Did this develop your character in any way?
- Possible areas that were Paul's thorn in the side were:
 - a) Physical sickness or disability
 - b) Family circumstance
 - c) Temptation
 - d) Loneliness
 - e) Criticism and/or opposition.Which of these is more or less likely and why?

APPLICATION AND PRAYER

- Pray for anyone in the group who is brave enough to share a long term thorn that they are struggling with
- At the end of Sunday's service Geoff invited prayer for anyone in new social situations or circles. Pray for one another for the courage to share our faith when the opportunity arises in the different settings he puts us in.