

This Is Us Series  
Honest About Dark Days  
2 Corinthians 1:8-14  
April 8, 2018

Be honest with others about your **DARK DAYS!**

**2 Corinthians 1:8-14 — 8** *For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.*

**9** *Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.*

1. Share your **FEELINGS**. 2 Corinthians 1:9

**Galatians 6:2 — 2** *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

2. Share your **LESSONS LEARNED**. 2 Corinthians 1:9

**9** *Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.*

3. Share your **FAITH IN GOD**. 2 Corinthians 1:10

**10** *He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 11* *You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.*

**Lamentations 3:21-23 — 21** *But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: 22* *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23* *they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

4. Share your **PRAYER CONCERNS**. 2 Corinthians 1:11

**11** *You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.*

5. Share your **EXAMPLE**. 2 Corinthians 1:12

**12** *For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.*

6. Share your **HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**. 2 Corinthians 1:13-14

*13 For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand— 14 just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.*

Be honest with God, yourself & others about your **DARK DAYS!**

Let's talk about dark days...

1. Why is it unwise to make evaluations of others before you know what's really going on in their lives (v.8)?
2. What kinds of experiences in this life can cause a person to despair of life itself (v.8)?
3. Why is it such a struggle to share our feelings in dark days and what's the benefit of doing so (v. 9)?
4. Recall a time in your past when God intervened in your life in a way that brought you out of dark days (v.10)?
5. What was Paul saying with his statement that "On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again" (v.10)?
6. If Paul was so confident in God's ability to deliver him why did he request the Corinthian believers to pray for him (v.11)?
7. What would be the result of their prayers for Paul (v.11)?
8. What could Paul boast in (v.12)?
9. How had Paul conducted himself towards the Corinthian believers (v.12)?
10. What do you hope will happen in your relationships where you are not fully understood (v. 13-14)?