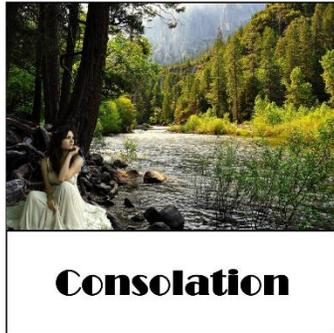


# God's Story<sup>TM</sup> Our Story



May 22, 2016

**Devotion:** Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone, as a couple, as a family; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

**Pray:** Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

**God of all consolation, deliver us from the afflictions of this world. Make us bold to proclaim your promise of peace to all who need to hear it. Amen.**

**Reflect:** Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. 2 Corinthians 1:2-4*

**Study:** Study the reading and consider the background.

The opening of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians is a powerful word of comfort from one who knows and understands the afflictions of his beloved community. Paul's letter models remorse and repentance, but also a recognition that God can console us in any situation, and in God we are reconciled.

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**Read:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday, 2 Corinthians 1:1-11, *Consolation*

Monday, 2 Corinthians 1:12-24, *The Postponement of Paul's Visit*

Tuesday, Colossians 1:24 – 2:5, *Paul's Interest in the Colossians*

Wednesday, Romans 8:12-17, *Life in the Spirit*

Thursday, 2 Timothy 2:1-13, *A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus*

Friday, Acts 19:21-41, *A Riot Breaks Out in Ephesus*

Saturday, Romans 15:22-33, *Paul's Plan to Visit Rome*

**What themes of Paul's can you identify from these letters and acts of Paul?**

**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**How does God console those who are suffering? Where do you see suffering that seems inconsolable?**

**Tell a story of a time you needed to be consoled. Who helped you?**

**Do:** By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Consider someone in your life that need consoling. Reach out to that person this week. Offer to bring a meal or share a conversation and coffee with them. When you visit, do more listening than talking. You don't need to have all the answers; a listening ear can be incredibly healing.**

**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God console you in your pain and rejoice with you in your joy. Amen.**

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