

## DAILY QUESTIONS

### **NOV 23-28      IF WE ARE OPEN, GOD CALLS US**

Monday	Read Philippians 4:11-13. Where do you find strength in facing the challenges of life?
Tuesday	Read Romans 5:1-5. When have you witnessed God's presence in the midst of times of suffering?
Wednesday	Read Hebrews 2:5-18. How can knowing the suffering of Jesus help us in our times of suffering?
Thursday	Read 2 Timothy 1:12. How does the Bible invite followers of Jesus to respond or react to suffering?
Friday	Read 2 Corinthians 12:6-10. Do you think God can use our weaknesses to show Christ's power? Why or why not?
Saturday	Read Isaiah 6:8. How is God calling you to witness and serve in this season of life?

# INSTRUCTIONS

## IF WE ARE OPEN, GOD CALLS US

SERMON ON NOV 22, 2020

Choose a question to get started!

- What stood out for you from Ted's witness and story?
- Share a time in your life when you were hurting or suffering.  
How did you get through it?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:6-10 and Philippians 4:11-13.

The Apostle Paul had an incredible impact on the growth of the early church. Yet we know from his own story that he wasn't the most likely candidate to be a successful church planter. He started as a persecutor of Christians and he suffered from a weakness that he called a "thorn in my side." He later would write to the church in Corinth that when he pleaded with God about this weakness, the Lord replied, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Ted shared in his message that when he sensed God's call to serve, his first response was that he couldn't. He was sick and hurting. But then he read a book by Rachel Held Evans and came to realize that in the Bible, God repeatedly calls people who would not appear to be up for such a challenge.

- How have you witnessed God using human frailty or weakness to show God's power and grace?
- What do you think Paul means when he says, "I can do all things through God who gives me strength?"

Read Romans 5:1-5.

In Romans, Paul says that suffering can lead down a path of human response to hope. Ted shared that in the lowest point of his despair from the news of his illness, he made room for God.

- When have you witnessed God's presence in the midst of times of suffering?
- Read Hebrews 2:5-18. How can knowing the suffering of Jesus help us in our times of suffering?

# INSTRUCTIONS

Read Isaiah 6:8.

This is how Ted ended his story, explaining how he was answering his call to serve God:

*"The first opportunity is to let you hear my story. So if you are in despair, or being tested, please allow your heart to be open to the Spirit of God to hear God's calling. Now you have it. The last pages of my life are not written. For once in my life, I don't have a plan. I am open, giving it up to God. Letting the Spirit of God show me His way for me. Whatever God's plan holds for me, I will follow Jesus, serving my God, the Great I Am, as long as I am able. This is my story..."*

*"With God, we are tested,  
And then, if we are open, God calls us."*

*"I know we all want things to go back to the way they were, but look for the test, and then be open to God's call."*

- How are you being tested right now in your life?
- How is God with you in the midst of that testing?
- How might God be calling you to share or to serve?