

Through The Bible In One Year

The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, Laura Gardner.

Theme: Our Limitations Provide God's Opportunity
Week 37 Small Group Bible Study & Sunday School Lesson

Open (Sharing our Own Stories & Getting To Know One Another)

1. What kind of mask would you choose to wear to a masquerade party?
2. Why is it fun to wear a mask? 3. What kinds of 'masks' do people sometimes wear to hide feelings/weaknesses?

Going Deeper Into God's Word Together

Read aloud Isaiah 6.1-8; Psalm 57.1-11; 2 Corinthians 12.2-10.

Isaiah: 1. Isaiah experienced God's magnificence in a vision. In what other ways does God reveal his magnificence to us? 2. Isaiah fully understood his own sinfulness when in the presence of God. What experiences can bring people to that point today? 3. What transforms Isaiah from a self-confessed sinner to one willing to be sent by God for ministry? In what ways do Christians show that their lives have been transformed?

Psalm: 1. What can Christians learn from David (the psalmist) about how to approach God in times of great need? 2. What makes David's heart steady and ready to sing? 3. How can Christians exalt God when he answers their prayers?

2 Corinthians: 1. Why does Paul boast about his weaknesses, rather than about the 'unsurpassingly great revelations' shown to him? 2. How can a 'thorn in the flesh' be a good thing for a Christian? 3. Paul's experience convinced him that Jesus was alive. In what ways can Christians today experience that truth?

Reflecting On What God Is Telling Us:

1. What limitations/weaknesses do you feel the need to 'mask'? _____physical
_____emotional _____intellectual _____financial _____spiritual.
2. What is the next step that you need to take to allow God to turn that weakness into a strength?

Applying/Putting Into Practice What God's Told Us

What 'mask' can you drop this week in order to show God's love/strength to another?