WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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Series Title: THE MYSTERY OF UNANSWERED PRAYERS
Key Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Recorded Sermon: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7TJIz2gtyU
Date + Speaker:November 16, 2025 + Pastor Mark Scarr

The Big Idea: God does not always remove uncomfortable situations, but His grace is always available. What feels like unanswered prayers is often an invitation to deeper dependence on God's strength.

Starter:
How do you feel when you can't get something you really want?

Discussion:
1. Read the text (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). In verse 7, what did Paul mean by 'I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.'?
2. Why do you think that Paul included the reason for the thorn in his explanation?
3. What did Paul do about the thorn and could he have done anything else to relieve the torment?
4. What was:
   a. God's response to Paul's Prayer?
   b. Paul's attitude towards God's unexpected response?

Diving Deeper:
1. If God loves and cares for His children, why would He allow 'thorns'?
2. Is it possible for God to allow 'thorns' in our lives without giving the reason? Please give reasons for you answer.
3. What does Paul's prayer in verse 8, teach us about expectations, persistence and surrender in prayer?

4. What is the difference between *delighting in suffering* and *ignoring pain* or *pretending everything is fine*?
5. What does the statement “my grace is sufficient for you” reveal about God’s heart toward His children in difficult seasons? (1Corinthians 12:9, Isaiah 43:2).
    a. Does God ignore prayers?
    b. What might ‘sufficient grace’ look like in a real-life situation today

Prayer:
Pray for the Lord’s help to lean on His grace and to depend on His power.