



### **In the Meantime, Pt. 2: A Purpose and a Promise**

The Christian faith was born in difficult circumstances. The men and women who bring us the stories of Jesus had a very different perspective on suffering than we do. Like them though, we have permission to ask that our cups be taken and our thorns removed. Sometimes, God says no. So what do we do in the meantime?

**Bottom Line:** Receive it as a gift with a purpose and a promise.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Describe a time when you were a child/teenager that you were told that you couldn't have something or that you were not allowed to do something you wanted to do. How did you react?
2. Why do you think people assume that faith in God will remove adversity from their lives? Have you ever made that assumption?
3. Why is it difficult to accept that challenging circumstances can come from a loving God?
4. Do you feel permission to plead with God to take away your difficult circumstances? How do you believe he responds to that kind of prayer?
5. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:7–10.** Discuss with the group what is or has been a "thorn in your flesh." What can you do to begin to view that "thorn" as a gift that comes with a purpose and a promise?
6. In the message, Andy said, "You are either in the middle of, have just gone through, or are about to go through an in-the-meantime season of life." How does that statement make you feel?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?