

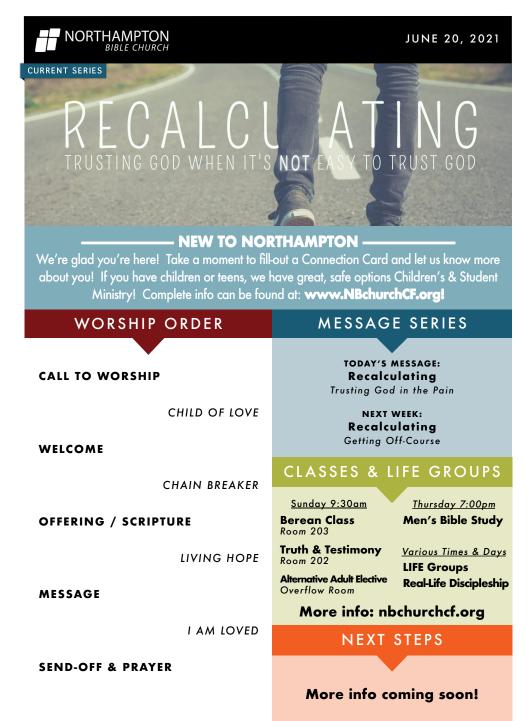
- 1. Seasons of pain are difficult to walk through and difficult to talk about. If you're able, share about a season of pain that you walked through. How did you see God work? How was your faith affected? What was the result on the other side of the season?
- 2. Imagine a "god" you could control. What would you like or dislike about him?
- 3. Read 2 Corinthians 12:6-10.

How does the Apostle Paul's call to delight in weakness challenge what you believe and have assumed about life circumstances?

- 4. Reflect on a time when God said "no" to your prayers to relieve the season of pain. Did it cause you to question his existence? When God said "no" to you, did you submit to his will or struggle to deal with the situation in your own strength? What was the result of your choice?
- 5. What does the fact that God didn't remove Paul's "thorn," but chose to use Paul's weakness to demonstrate his own power tell you about God's priorities?
- 6. How could the story of Paul's "thorn" strengthen your faith when God seems to be saying "no" to your request?
- 7. While we have permission to ask God to remove our pain, God has the right to say "no" to our requests. What do you do when God chooses to showcase his power on the stage of your weakness?

#### FROM THE WORD TO MY LIFE

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ~ 2 Corinthians 12:9



#### WHO WE ARE

Northampton exists to help all people love God, love people and make disciples. **GET CONNECTED** 

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# UPCOMING AT NORTHAMPTON

#### **WELCOME TO NORTHAMPTON!**

We're glad you've decided to join us online or in-person! We want you to know that you are welcome here! Please take the time to fill out our online Connection Card and download the Church Center App to stay connected! Thanks for joining in!

### **LIFE GROUPS**

A great next-step for you and your family is to get connected into a LIFE Group! LGs are safe spaces to get out of rows (on Sunday mornings) and get into circles (during the week) and discuss life and the Bible, pray for each other and care for one another! Check out the Church Center app for available groups and get connected today!

# STUDENT LIFE CAMP - WORK DAY (JUNE 26 - 9:00am-3:00pm)

If you have needs around your home that the REFUGE students can help with (yard work, clean up, etc.) please send an email to **office@nbchurchcf.org** or call the church office and let them know!

## **SERVING OPPORTUNITIES**

- + **CAFE HELP** if you're able to help coordinate the coffee and cookies on a regular basis on Sunday mornings (once/month), please sign-up in the app!
- + **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** There is an on-going need for people who feel gifted and called to work with children. From the baby room to teaching in the elementary classes, you'd be welcome to join in! All supplies provided. You must pass a background check in order to be able to work with children. Let Kellie Sturm, our Children's Ministry Director, know if you're interested!
- + **FIRST IMPRESSIONS** We are looking for smiling faces to be a part of the team that can help set the tone for guest and regulars at Northampton! If you'd like more information, email firstimpressions@nbchurchcf.org
- + **MEDIA & TECH** If you have skills in video editing, sound, computers, etc. your help is needed! Sign up in the Church Center App! Training is available.

# RECALCULATING MESSAGE NOTES Pastor Joe Pryor

When you are faced with a season of pain, kno God doesn't pain	w and believe that
Just because God doesn't do you th	
Paul's Seasons of Pain Acts 9   2 Corinthians 11:24-28; 12:7-10	
When you're in a season of pain	
1. You can ask God to	
2. God may say	
3. Trust that God will leverage it for your	and
4. As you walk in	
you will experience God's	_ in your pain.