

## GROUP ACTIVITY

This activity can be used in a small group at church or even with your kids at home!

### Strength in Weakness

**Set up:** Provide each small group with two equally-sized stacks of books or Bibles. When stacked, the books or Bibles need only be a few inches high. As a substitute, you could also use two equally-sized chairs.

**Say:** In today's story, Paul had a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. In fact, he had a bunch of days like that—days that made Paul feel weak. But Paul rejoiced in his weakness, because that allowed God to be strong. We're going to do an activity right now that will help us see how God makes us strong when bad things happen to us.

**Directions:** Set two equally-sized stacks of books in the middle of the group with about 8 inches between them. Provide the kids with a single piece of paper and an empty plastic cup and give them the following challenge: use the paper to create a bridge that is strong enough to hold up the cup. They may not move the books closer together or use any other objects to assist. Allow the kids to problem solve and to experiment with different solutions. When enough time has passed or the kids have given up, tell them that you will show them the solution, but first they have to answer a question. Ask the kids to tell you about something bad that has happened to them. Each time a kid shares, fold the paper long-ways so that it eventually looks like a paper fan. (Each fold should be about an inch apart for a total of 7 folds.) When you've finished your 7th and final fold, set the accordion shaped paper across the books and place the cup on top (see picture below.) The paper will be strong enough to hold the cup up.

**Say:** If this paper hadn't been bent out of shape, it wouldn't be so strong. That's kind of like us. When bad things happen, we can get all bent out of shape. It's no fun and it doesn't feel so good either, but that's when God shows His strength. For example, if you got made fun of at school, God might use that situation to help you stand up for other kids who get made fun of. If your grandma died, God might use that situation to help you comfort a friend when they lose a grandparent.

**Question:** Think about each of those bad things you shared. How could God make you better or stronger through that situation? Is there something good that God could do through that bad thing?

