

Introduction: *Engage your group by stimulating their thinking.*

Divide your class or larger group into three groups. Put the words *disappointment*, *discouragement*, and *depression* each on a 3-by-5-inch card and give one card to each group. Allow them a couple of minutes to discuss what the word on their card means and how people get to the state listed on the card. Ask each group to share their insights with the class.

Part 1: *Think more deeply about the subject through poetry.*

One of the most famous Christian poems is “Footprints in the Sand.” Ask for a volunteer to read it aloud to the class and then ask the class to comment on how the author portrays God during her times of trouble.

One night I dreamed a dream.

I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

“Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me.”

He whispered, “My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.”

{Source: Margaret Fishback Powers, “Footprints,” The WOW Zone [online], 1964 [cited 17 August 2016]. Available from the Internet: <http://www.wowzone.com/fprints.htm>.}

Part 2: Engage using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.

Show your group members the video clip “God Is a Mean Kid” (1 minute, 22 seconds). This clip is available at WingClips: <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/bruce-almighty/god-is-a-mean-kid>

Think-Pair-Share: As your group members watch the video, ask them to pick two statements that stand out to them.

“**Think** for 30 seconds on the two statements. Why did you choose them? Discuss these in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” Pause for 60 seconds. Call on three or four pairs to **share** one idea.

Part 3: Check for understanding using a song.

Read the words to two verses and the refrain of “Little is much...” listed below. Ask your students to comment on their insights.

*Does the place you’re called to labor
Seem too small and little known?
It is great if God is in it,
And He’ll not forget His own.*

Refrain

*Little is much when God is in it!
Labor not for wealth or fame.
There’s a crown—and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus’ Name.*

*Are you laid aside from service,
Body worn from toil and care?
You can still be in the battle,
In the sacred place of prayer.*

{Source: Kittie L. Suffield, “Little Is Much When God Is in It,” 1924 [cited 17 August 2016]. Available from the Internet: <http://cyberhymnal.org/htm/l/m/lmuchwgi.htm>.}

Conclusion: Challenge your students to live the lesson.

The text identifies the importance of remaining steadfast even when times are difficult. Challenge your students to commit to memorizing 1 Corinthians 15:58 this week.

Teaching Tip of the Week

The use of objects in a lesson can be very helpful in engaging students' interest in the subject and engaging their senses. The more senses that are engaged, the more likely they are to remember the lesson. Today we used popcorn. Think of other objects you can use in your future lessons. You are only limited by your imagination!