

AUGUST 13-17

BUT, GOD ...

DISCOVERTHEWORD.ORG

Who doesn't love a good surprise? Can you recall a time when God surprised you? Has there been a time when you didn't see a solution but God provided in a surprising and unexpected way? Maybe you were surprised by the beauty of His creation, a miracle of healing, or the unexpected generosity of a neighbor?

Isaiah 55:8–9 reminds us that God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours. With that in mind, it would make sense that His actions and responses to us—in the events of life and the world we live in—would not always be expected.



THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read Romans 5:8. What is the surprising response of God to the needs of a broken, sinful person?
- Read Acts 2:23–24. What is the surprising way God has chosen to bring life out of death to His lost creation? Why is this surprise important to us?
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:26–29. What is the surprising choice God makes about what constitutes a man or woman He can use in His kingdom work? What does that say to each of us about our own usefulness?
- Read 2 Corinthians 7:5–7. What is the surprising response of God to the needs of the depressed? How did He choose to express that response?



CHALLENGE

As you consider the surprising ways of God, how can an enlarged view of His counterintuitive ways both humble and help us when we are going through difficult times—especially when He doesn't seem to be responding to our needs?



COMMIT TO MEMORY

"But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are"
(1 Corinthians 1:27–28 NASB).



PRAYER

Father, I thank You that You are wiser than I could ever imagine and that You love me more than I could ever deserve. Help me to trust Your love and wisdom when life is confusing and times are hard. Amen.

