



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Finding Your For—in light of the world (2 Cor. 4:7-18)

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

What reasons cause you to get most discouraged? Why?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What idea, context, Scripture do you think could have been expanded on, or included in the message?

In what ways is it easier to give up or give in to the pressures the “world” throws at you?

In what ways may we be tempted to fight for good things, but maybe not the right things?

What did Dave mean (in the context of 2 Corinthians 4 that in response to the world, “let yourself be broken, but never let it break you”?

In what way can you and I respond, as followers of Jesus to a messy world around us as a “lockbox or as jars of clay” Pull down the shades on the world, or as light that displays Christ? How will this impact what “we are for”?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [2 Corinthians 4:7-18]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What kind of jars contained Paul’s treasure? (4:7)

How did Paul contrast his own weakness with God’s power? (4:8-9)

What did Paul call his sufferings? (4:10)

What value did Paul see in his sufferings? (4:10-12)

What motivated Paul to preach the gospel in spite of hardship? (4:13-14)

How did Paul encourage the Corinthians to carry on despite difficulty? (4:16-18)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How have you experienced the tension that the light and treasure of Christ is in you, AND, you are a fragile clay jar?

In what way has Christ secured our hope, future and our identity as fully God and fully human (in the same human frame as us)? Why is this significant?

What stories are you telling yourself about your own suffering, circumstances, troubles, and problems? In what way would the apostle Paul tell us to see things as God sees them? Why, do you think Paul didn't harden his heart in trying and difficult times? What may God be nudging you to be for in the context of these verses? What is the enemy of your FOR?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?