

life together

SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Main point from Sunday's sermon:

The ministry of the gospel, to which we are all called, is one marked by humility, weakness, and dependence. Now let's RECAP:

Re-Read

Re-read 2 Corinthians 4:1-18. As you do, highlight what you think are the key sentences or phrases. You'll come back to those as you evaluate the main point of the passage shortly.

Evaluate

Using the key statements, sentences, or phrases you highlighted, determine as a group what you think the big idea is.

The main points from Sunday's sermon were:

1. The power of humility (4:1-6)
2. The power of weakness (4:7-12)
3. The power of dependence (4:13-18)

Spend a few minutes connecting the text and the main points. Where in the text do you see the above statements and points?

Citations from the Church

"Nearly all men can stand adversity; if you want to test a man's character, give him power," Abraham Lincoln.

Do you agree with this quote? Why or why not? What are some examples you've seen of this in culture? What about your own life?

"What we need very badly these days is a company of Christians who are prepared to trust God as completely now as they know they must do at the last day," A.W. Tozer.

What do you think Tozer is driving at with this quote? Why would it matter that trust for the present match our trust for the future? Do you think people have more trust toward one over the other? Why or why not?

Application or Advancing the Gospel

If the aim of our lives is to declare the supremacy of Christ, how do humility, weakness, and dependence encourage that?

In what ways does bad theology hurt people? By bad theology, we mean vague, watered down, Christ-less theology. In what ways can that be combatted?

What is the significance of the clay jars in 4:7? Is that encouraging or discouraging to you? Why?

What then is the significance or what happens to the jar of clay in verses 8-9? Do you see the difficulties and hardships you walk through with a purpose behind them? Why or why not?

There's a tendency to want to fill the cracks in our lives with things that bring *seeming* wholeness. What are some of the things you turn to during hard times to bring relief or distraction? What do verses 7-12 seem to point us to instead?

Praise

Wonderful, merciful Savior, Precious Redeemer and Friend; Who would have thought that a Lamb, Could rescue the souls of men; Oh, You rescue the souls of men. / Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace; You offer hope when our hearts have, Hopelessly lost our way; Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way.

You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore; You give the healing and grace, Our hearts always hunger for; Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

"Wonderful, Merciful Savior," by Selah