



A COMPANION WORKBOOK FOR 2 CORINTHIANS

GOD'S MISSION GOD'S WAY

*Resting in mercy, proclaiming Jesus,
and trusting God with the results*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-6

GRACE POINT CHURCH

THE BIG IDEA

If we truly know the power of God's mercy, we will pursue God's mission, God's way, and trust Him for the results.

The mission is God's work in Christ, carried forward by the Spirit through the open proclamation of the gospel. We do not have to manipulate people, improve God's Word, or build our own kingdom. Mercy frees us to be faithful and leave the miracle of new creation to God.

KEY SCRIPTURE

"Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1

Where am I tempted to lose heart, take control, or substitute my methods for God's way?

REFLECT AND RESPOND

PURSUE GOD'S MISSION

Paul does not proclaim himself. He proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord - the perfect image of God, the victor over the domain of darkness, and the One who restores the dominion humanity lost. The gospel announces His lordship over creation and redemption.

LORD OF CREATION

- The true image of God
- Victor over Satan's claims
- King over all He has made

LORD OF REDEMPTION

- Light for darkened hearts
- New life for dead souls
- Freedom for sin's captives

We pursue God's mission as we submit to Jesus, invite others to join us, and fear nothing that tries to stop us.

Where does my life need to agree more fully with the confession that Jesus Christ is Lord?

LIVING UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS

RENOUNCE OUR METHODS

Trying to accomplish God's mission with our own methods always ends in proclaiming ourselves. Paul renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways, refused cunning, and would not tamper with God's Word. God's truth does not need our manipulation.

1

UNDERHANDED

Manipulating people to produce the response we want.

2

CUNNING

Treating the ends as permission to compromise the means.

3

TAMPERING

Softening, twisting, or hiding what God has actually said.

Where the truth is twisted, God is hidden. Faithfulness speaks openly in the sight of God.

Where am I tempted to hide, soften, or improve on God's truth in order to avoid conflict or protect my reputation?

RENOUNCING THE SHORTCUT

SERVANTS FOR JESUS' SAKE

God's way is not only the message of the cross; it is a life shaped by the cross. Paul committed himself to others as their servant for Jesus' sake. He welcomed inspection because his ministry was not about building a following around himself.

"What we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5

1

HONEST

Speak the truth without pretending, peddling, or adapting it for approval.

2

OPEN

Live without hiding weakness because anything built on us will not last.

3

FOCUSED

Serve in the sight of the God who sees all and gives sight to the blind.

Whom is Jesus calling me to serve? Which posture - honesty, openness, or focus - most needs His mercy today?

SERVING FOR JESUS' SAKE

TRUST GOD WITH THE RESULTS

The god of this world blinds unbelieving minds. No technique can overcome that darkness. Salvation happens when the Creator who once said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' shines in a heart and reveals His glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

"God... has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6

BLINDNESS → SIGHT

DARKNESS → LIGHT

DEATH → NEW LIFE

SLAVERY → FREEDOM

Whose salvation am I trying to carry as if the result depended on me? How would trust change the way I pray, speak, and persevere?

ENTRUSTING THE RESULTS TO GOD

MERCY THAT KEEPS US

Paul's confidence was not in visible success but in God's powerful mercy. Mercy keeps us from discouragement, from pragmatism, and from trying to build our own kingdom. The God who opened our eyes can open anyone's eyes.

He's still opening the eyes of the blind, giving life to the dead, and giving grace to sinners.

WHEN MERCY IS IN VIEW

1

PERSEVERE

We do not abandon God's mission when fruit is slow or rejection is painful.

2

RE-ENGAGE

We return to faithful witness because Christ's mercy has not let us go.

3

PRAISE

We lay the outcome at Jesus' feet and celebrate what only God can do.

Where has discouragement pushed me toward giving up or trying a shortcut? What mercy do I need to remember?

REMEMBERING HIS POWERFUL MERCY

DISCUSSION & PRAYER

- 01 How does God's mercy keep believers from losing heart?
- 02 What does proclaiming Jesus as Lord say about creation and redemption?
- 03 Where do Christians feel pressure to use underhanded ways, cunning, or tampering?
- 04 Why must the messenger's life be shaped by the cross as well as the message?
- 05 What would honest, open, and focused service look like in your relationships?
- 06 How does knowing that God alone gives light change the way we evangelize?

PRAY: Praise Jesus as Lord, confess where fear or pride has replaced faithfulness, ask for courage to speak the truth openly, and entrust specific people and outcomes to God's mercy.

NOTES AND PRAYER

WALKING IN GOD'S WAY

Pursue God's mission. Pursue it God's way. Trust Him with the results.

The sermon closes with two questions. Answer both honestly, then choose one concrete way to re-engage this week.

1

WHERE HAVE I GIVEN UP ON GOD'S MISSION?

Name the person, place, fear, or disappointment honestly.

2

HOW DOES HIS MERCY ENCOURAGE ME TO RE-ENGAGE?

Choose one faithful act of prayer, proclamation, service, or invitation.

If God opened our eyes, He can open anyone's. We do not lose heart.

MY NEXT STEP IN GOD'S MISSION