

Subject: The Door Home: Our Living Hope This Easter

Resources: [[TEACHING LINK](#)] AND [DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES LINK]

Dear Beloved Church Family,

What a joy it was to celebrate Easter with you. I pray this summary and the available discipleship materials bless you as much as they bless me. As we considered "The Door Home" from 2 Corinthians 4, we were reminded that Easter is not merely a date on our calendar, but the risen Christ Himself—our eternal hope and access to the Father.

Summary: The sermon explored Jesus as "The Door Home" through which we find comfort, completeness, and hope. Drawing from Ecclesiastes 3:11, John 10:7-10, and 2 Corinthians 4, we examined how Christ is both the light that pierces our darkness and the door that welcomes us into abundant, eternal life. This message has profound implications for our spiritual life: we were not designed for this world, so we cannot find true fulfillment here. Only through Christ do we discover our true home—a world where He rules and reigns, free from death, suffering, and sin.

Takeaways:

1. The Gospel transforms us from the inside out, changing not only our eternal destiny but our present reality, replacing shame and deceit with truth and freedom from sin's power and penalty.
2. Life's hardships are not mistakes in God's plan but central to His rescue plan of redemption; our suffering allows the light of the Gospel to burn deeper in our hearts and shine brighter to those around us.
3. Our living hope is not fixated on present hurts but on the promise of Jesus Christ—victory has been granted as a free gift, and we must receive and enjoy all His promises, even in hard things, knowing our present troubles pale in comparison to the glory awaiting us.

As we move forward from this Easter celebration, may we live as children of the King, filled with His hope for He is faithful and true. Let us keep our eyes fixed not on what is seen and temporary, but on what is unseen and eternal.

With the Great Love of Christ,

Pastor Jim

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The Door Home

2 Corinthians 4

I. Prologue: No Kings

1. Depending upon your source of news this last week, you may have heard a lot, virtually nothing, or somewhere in between about some “No Kings” demonstrations. *While a few of these demonstrations were in other parts of the world, most were here in America.* They were a political statement against the current U.S. president and his administration.
2. I note this because no matter your political views, there is a King we must all reckon with in giving an account for our lives. *His name is King Jesus.* Now, I know the world has and will say (1) there is no god, (2) *there are many ways to heaven*, or maybe even (3) “crucify Him”, but our words don’t define Jesus or change His plan regarding who gets to go through the Door Home.
3. I found a simple and sweet story about this very thing...some might rightfully call it a children’s story.

There was a king holding council with his advisers, noblemen, and high ministers of state in his throne room. *Suddenly there was a bang and a clatter at the door of the throne room.* All eyes turned as the door burst open and a young boy ran into the room.

One of the king’s royal guardsmen tried to stop the boy. “*Hold there, lad!*” he shouted. “Don’t you know you’re disturbing the council of the king?”

“He’s your king,” laughed the boy, “but he’s my Daddy!” *And the boy bounced into the open arms of his father, the king.*

A child of the king always outranks any nobleman, adviser, minister, ambassador, or dignitary. *Because of His great love for us, that is the position a child of God has with Him.* A position that

brings us through The Door Home into his presence for His care, concern, correction, and counsel in giving us an abundant, eternal life.¹

Today, we gather for some to knock on and step through The Door Home, for some to find their way back through The Door Home, for some to be a prayerful part of revealing & encouraging The Door Home to others, and for ALL to celebrate The Door Home being thrown wide open!

II. Introduction: Hope

1. In a sense, Easter is The Door Home. A home of comfort and completeness. A home of hope. Not just any hope, but the hope given and secured by the sovereign and good King Jesus as evidenced by His empty tomb in His defeating death.

This is a hope spanning every generation, culture, language, people group, and earthly “kingdom”. This is a hope that can be counted as righteous and sure. This is a hope that while walked through by far too few is available to all. This is the hope of eternal life that has been written into the hearts of mankind...King Solomon says it this way in [Ecclesiastes 3:11](#):

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He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.
- Ecclesiastes 3:11

2. In a Jesus-told story found in [John 10:7-10](#), His followers are the sheep, He is the shepherd with a wonderful sheepfold or home, and the enemy (along with his worldly system) are the thief.

¹ Adapted from <https://ministry127.com/resources/illustration/disturbing-the-king>, Submitted by Ray Cazis

Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it more abundantly*”.

- John 10:7–10

3. Because Easter is NOT simply a date on a calendar, but Easter is the risen Christ, we see that Jesus is The Door Home.
4. And because The Door Home is Jesus, it is a door that beckons. It beckons because Godly treasures of fulfillment and victory are NOT fleeting but enduring.

For you see, you were NOT designed for this world so you cannot get fulfillment from it. The Door Home is the door to the destination for which you were designed...a world where Christ rules and reigns...a world where there is no more death, suffering, or sin. A world of contentment, joy, fulfillment, and victory.

III. 2 Corinthians 4:1-6: The Door Home is the Light of the World

1. A man named Saul lived a good part of his life as a Jewish religious leader. He had kept the law. He had persecuted those who claimed Jesus was Messiah. He had his own Door Home opened when the risen Christ confronted him on one of his quests to destroy Jesus' followers.

Jesus spoke the Gospel into Saul's life and Saul became the Apostle Paul (who wrote this letter) and most importantly, a child of God. In these opening verses Paul emphasis 3 themes that are also for us today, including:

- A. Paul starts with “Therefore...we do not lose heart.” Despite life difficulties, Paul has hope. Why? Well, the “therefore” demands we look to the prior passage for the answer; in 3:16 we read

“when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away”,
meaning one is able know and live the Gospel.

- i. The still-very-real veil Paul is referring to is the one blinding us from the light that is life itself. It is Satan, the world system, and mankind’s depraved hearts working in the unity of all its wickedness, waring against Christ and His followers in bringing in the despair of hopelessness. Left to its design, this veil seals our doom and destiny to hell.

B. The second theme is the hope of the Gospel transforms. It NOT only changes our destiny from hell to heaven, but does so by first changing us from the inside-out. The power of God poured out on the child of God replaces shame, manipulation, deceit, and the rest of our sin-stained hearts with truth-telling-truth-living as though being before God Himself. It moves us from being a dying testimony of evil to being a living testimony of our holy Father. Indeed in 3:17 above, we are told that in Jesus we come to experientially know something our hearts yearn for...liberty or freedom from the power and penalty of sin knowing that one day we will also be freed from the presence of sin.

C. The third theme is sprinkled throughout these verses as Paul notes his ministry of preaching Christ and Him crucified in word and deed. Because God poured out His grace and mercy on Paul...because God purchased Paul’s life at Calvary...because (as we read in 3:18 above) Paul was being transformed into the image of Christ by the Lord’s glory, Paul yearns to – in fact can’t help himself, but to obey God in sharing the glory of God that others may come to also know His glory in their lives.

2. Before we go any further. Let’s take a moment and make sure we all have an understanding of this Gospel Paul is speaking of. The heart of the gospel is redemption and reconciliation accomplished through the cross of Calvary and the empty tomb. For by the cross, He paid the penalty for your sin and by the empty tomb, He

invites you to new life in Him; a life where you are being transformed into His holy and glorious image. In [John 3:16](#), Jesus says it this way: “For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

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IV. [2 Corinthians 4:7-15](#): Life is Hard

1. Why would a good God allow bad things to happen? Why would a good God not answer our prayers for the life of our child? Where is God, does He not see my suffering? If I am faithful in doing God’s work, why am I suffering so?
 - A. These and many other thoughts, especially in times of great hurt and life challenges, can get our eyes on our circumstances and off of the majesty, holiness, and goodness of our LORD. What’s more, the enemy is the master liar and does all he is able in using our pride and circumstance to remove God’s influence and corrupt our testimony. He breeds doubt about who God is and if that is not working, He condemns us in trying to rob us of the sure hope that is the Gospel. His bag of tricks doesn’t end there as he is also the master manipulator in presenting temptations that, when realized blind us to our desperate need for God AND instead seek to satiate our pride.
 - B. What’s more, as Paul wrote in these verses, people – even those that are children of God - are fragile earthen vessels. Not only do we live in a fallen world where earthen vessels often get sidelined in the back shed or even broken, but the enemy also sends a steady dose of chaos, persecution, despair of all sorts, discouragement, and suffering our way whenever possible.
2. Keeping in mind our fragility, it’s little wonder that outside of the veil being lifted, none have the hope of victory over our own flesh and the devil’s designs. It is also little wonder that as the enemy sees our hearts won by Christ that he lashes out in attempting to kill, steal, and destroy the work of the Spirit of God.

3. As Paul said, they were hard-pressed on every side. **They were crushed and yet live.** They were hunted by those hating God, but never abandoned **by** God. **They suffered as Christ suffered so that others may see Christ in them.** For it is suffering all the way to death that we come to see of our great need of Messiah...**Paul echoes these same sentiments in Romans 6:5** by noting being united with Him in death, we will certainly be united to Him in His resurrection. Thank you Jesus! Thank you for those that came before us that we also found **The Door Home.** Thank you for the honor, privilege, and responsibility of pointing others to You.

With your permission, I would like to talk about a couple of hard truths. **Truths that are offensive because we all fall short of the glory of God.** By design these truths, in the power of the Holy Spirit, will reveal and unfurl your white-knuckled grip on the things of life keeping you from continually drawing closer to Jesus.

4. Folks, for every one of us, our starting point is being a sinner lost from our Lord. **Every one of us, believer and unbeliever, suffer from hurts in this life.....**yet only the believer has the hope of God's promise of our being overcomers.

Sure each of will invest great time, effort, and treasure in trying to make the best possible life for ourselves on this side of heaven (**the best version of paradise we can muster in our strength, wisdom, and limitations**), but the hurts continue to pummel and wear us down. **It is only in Him, that no matter our hurts, we can have contentment and peace...we can have meaning and purpose...we can know and share God's transforming love...we can know that our victory is sure. Listen to this hard truth...our hurts are not a mistake in God's rescue plan; they are central to His redemption for each of us.**

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5. Second, we have done NOTHING to deserve His grace, mercy, and forgiveness AND of ourselves, we bring NOTHING of value to God. **"But God" still makes the way for us to be restored to Him. Can I get an amen and hallelujah?!**

I note this because God's word confronts us with who we say He is. So often our questions of God, our lack of obedience, and our actions against Him speak of our questioning His goodness and actions as though we know better than He AND that we are somehow deserving of something better than the hurts that are a constant companion in this life.

- A. Because life is hard, should we give up? No. Indeed, hardness of life burns the light of the Gospel deeper, broader, and further in our own hearts and with those God gives us influence with.
- B. Because life is hard, does it make God a liar? No.
- C. Because life is hard, should we be choosing (overtly or by default) the dark path thinking we, the world, and the enemy have the power, wisdom, and goodness to do what is right? No.
- D. Because life is hard, is God no longer sovereign? Is He no longer faithful? Are His promises null-and-void? Can we no longer be overcomers? Are we somehow wired differently? No, no, no, no, and no.

You see, the Gospel is a living hope and that is where we will go to close today.

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V. [2 Corinthians 4:16-18](#): A Living Hope

1. The title I gave this section really applies to our whole passage today. The hope of Easter is a living hope. Easter is the promise of new life on this side of heaven where the power of sin is no more for the penalty of sin has been paid. Easter is also the promise of an ever maturing new life in Christ until one day when sin will no longer be in the believers presence.
2. This Easter, I pray that your eyes are NOT fixated upon your hurts, but upon the hope of Jesus Christ. While we cannot yet see him face-to-face, when we do, it will be forever. Victory has been granted to you as a free gift from the Living God...receive and enjoy all of His promises – yes, through the hard things too.

3. May we be thankful and worshipful in God continually giving us what we need and not what we want! **Just as He was moving in Paul's day, He is moving in our day.** Just as Paul said, he counted the cost of his present troubles and dangers, but the victory of being raised to life with Christ is far more glorious.

If you would like to give your life to Christ or rededicate your life to Jesus today, I invite you to come up front as we sing this last worship song together.

VI. Communion Invitation

2 Corinthians 4 The Door Home

I. Prologue: No Kings

II. Introduction: Hope

- Easter is the door home.
- You were NOT designed for this world so you cannot get fulfillment from it.

Additional Scripture References: Ecc 3:11; Jn 10:7-10

III. 2 Corinthians 4:1-6: The Door Home is the Light of the World

- Only in Christ do we have eternal life.

IV. 2 Corinthians 4:7-15: Life is Hard

- It's hard for all of us, BUT in Christ these hard things are used to shape and mold us while bringing Him great glory.
- Two hard truths...we are all sinners that should be humbled by the reality that we have done NOTHING to deserve His grace, mercy, and forgiveness, AND, of ourselves, we bring NOTHING of value to God.

Additional Scripture References: Ro 6:5

V. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: A Living Hope

- Easter is the promise of new life on this side of heaven where the power of sin is no more for the penalty of sin has been paid. It's also the promise that one day we will NOT live in the presence of sin.

5-Day Devotional 2 Corinthians 4 The Door Home

Day 1: Children of the King

Reading: Jn 10:7-10; Ro 8:14-17

Devotional: The throne room of heaven is not closed to you. Like the boy who ran past guards to embrace his father the king, you have access to the King of Kings through Christ. This is not presumption but privilege—purchased at Calvary. Today, reflect on your identity as God's child. You don't approach Him as a distant subject but as a beloved son or daughter. The Door Home stands open because Jesus declared, "I am the door."

What burdens are you carrying alone that your Father longs to help you with? What royal inheritance are you ignoring? Step boldly through the door today, knowing you belong in His presence. How does knowing you're a child of the King change how you approach God today?

Day 2: The Veil Removed

Reading: 2 Cor 3:16-18, 4:1-6

Devotional: Before Christ, a veil of spiritual blindness covered our hearts—woven by Satan, our sinful nature, and worldly systems working in dark unity. But when we turn to the Lord, that veil is torn away. Suddenly, we see the light of the Gospel, the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. This isn't mere intellectual knowledge; it's transforming revelation. Paul experienced this dramatic unveiling on the Damascus road, shifting from persecutor to proclaimer. The same Spirit who illuminated Paul's heart dwells in you.

Today, ask God to remove any remaining veils—areas where pride, hurt, or deception still cloud your vision of His glory and goodness. What veils might still be hindering your full view of Christ's glory?

Day 3: Treasure in Earthen Vessels

Reading: 2 Co 4:7-12; Ro 6:3-11

Devotional: We are fragile clay pots carrying the infinite treasure of the Gospel. This divine paradox ensures that God receives glory, not us. Paul's litany—hard-pressed but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not abandoned—describes the Christian life honestly. Our suffering isn't evidence of God's absence but of our union with Christ. We share in His death so we might share in His resurrection life. The cracks in your earthen vessel aren't flaws in God's design; they're where His light shines through most brilliantly. Your weakness becomes the stage for His strength.

Today, surrender your fragility to Him and watch how He works through it. How is God's power being perfected in your current weakness?

Day 4: The Eternal Weight of Glory

Reading: 2 Co 4:16-18; Ro 8:18-25

Devotional: Present suffering and future glory sit on opposite ends of God's scale, and the weight isn't even close. Paul invites us to an eternal perspective that transforms how we endure hardship. While our outer self wastes away, our inner self is being renewed daily. This isn't denial of pain but defiant hope rooted in resurrection promise. The key is focus: fix your eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. Temporary troubles are producing eternal glory far beyond comparison. This doesn't minimize your pain; it contextualizes it within God's redemptive plan.

Today, practice shifting your gaze from your circumstances to Christ's unchanging character and certain promises. What temporary trouble needs to be viewed through the lens of eternal glory?

Day 5: Living Hope Through the Open Door

Reading: 1 Pe1:3-9; Re 3:20

Devotional: Easter is not a date but a Person—the risen Christ who is The Door Home. This living hope transforms everything. You were not designed for this fallen world, which is why it never fully satisfies. Your heart yearns for home, for the world where Christ rules without rival, where death, suffering, and sin are no more. Until then, The Door Home remains open, beckoning you daily into His presence for comfort, correction, and counsel. Jesus stands at the door and knocks, inviting you to abundant life now and eternal life forever.

Today is your day to knock, to step through, to come home, or to help others find the way. The King awaits His children. How will you step through The Door Home today and invite others to follow?

Small Group Study Guide

2 Corinthians 4

The Door Home

Opening Prayer: Begin with prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth and to help the group apply the sermon's message to their lives.

Key Takeaways: Query the group for takeaways first...you may stay with one or more of those.

1. Jesus is The Door Home - He is the only way to eternal life and relationship with God
2. The Gospel Transforms - God's grace changes us from the inside out, giving us freedom from sin
3. Life is Hard, But Hope Remains - Our suffering doesn't negate God's goodness or promises
4. We Are Fragile Vessels Carrying Eternal Treasure - Our weakness displays God's power
5. Present Troubles Are Temporary; Glory is Eternal - We must fix our eyes on what is unseen

Discussion Questions: Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. The Door Home Concept: How does viewing Jesus as "The Door Home" change your perspective on salvation and your relationship with God?
2. The Veil (2 Cor 4:3-4): Paul mentions a veil that blinds people from the Gospel. What are some modern "veils" that keep people from seeing the truth about Jesus?
3. Earthen Vessels (2 Cor 4:7): What does it mean that we carry this treasure in "jars of clay"? Why would God choose to work through fragile, broken people?
4. Your Transformation Story: How has the Gospel transformed you from the inside out? Share a specific area where you've seen God's power change you.

5. **Hard Questions:** The sermon addresses questions like "Why would a good God allow bad things to happen?" How do you wrestle with this question in your own life? What helps you maintain hope during difficult times?
6. **Present Suffering (2 Cor 4:16-18):** Paul says our present troubles are "light and momentary" compared to eternal glory. Is this perspective easy or difficult for you to maintain? Why?
7. **Ministry Despite Hardship:** Paul continued preaching despite persecution and suffering. What challenges or fears keep you from sharing the Gospel with others? How can this passage encourage you?
8. **Eyes on the Eternal:** What practical steps can you take this week to focus more on "what is unseen" rather than your current circumstances?
9. **Being a Living Testimony:** The sermon emphasizes that our suffering can point others to Christ. How can you allow God to use your current struggles as a testimony to His goodness?

Practical Applications: Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. **Shift Your Perspective:** Each day, write down one difficulty you're facing and one eternal truth from 2 Corinthians 4 that speaks to it. Practice thanking God for what you need rather than complaining about what you want.
2. **Share Your Story:** Identify one person who needs to hear about "The Door Home" Pray daily for them and look for an opportunity to share how Jesus has transformed your life.
3. **Embrace Your Weakness:** Identify an area where you feel inadequate or broken. Ask God to show His power through your weakness this week. Journal about how God uses your fragility to display His strength.

Closing Prayer Points:

- **Praise:** Thank God that Jesus is The Door Home and has made a way for us to be reconciled to Him
- **Confession:** Confess areas where you've focused on temporary troubles rather than eternal glory
- **Intercession:** Pray for those in your life who haven't yet come through The Door Home
- **Petition:** Ask God to help you be a faithful witness despite life's hardships

Discussion Questions

2 Corinthians 4

The Door Home

1. How does understanding Jesus as both King and Father change the way you approach Him in prayer and daily life?
2. In what ways have you experienced the 'veil being lifted' in your own spiritual journey, allowing you to see the light of the Gospel more clearly?
3. Paul describes believers as 'fragile earthen vessels' containing the treasure of the Gospel. How does this reality humble you and give you hope simultaneously?
4. When facing persecution or hardship, how can suffering actually strengthen your testimony and point others to Christ rather than diminish it?
5. What specific 'white-knuckled grips' on earthly things might be keeping you from drawing closer to Jesus right now?
6. How do you reconcile the goodness of God with the reality of ongoing suffering and unanswered prayers in your life?
7. In what ways are you tempted to believe that you deserve better than the difficulties you face, and how does this reveal your view of God's character?
8. Paul was transformed from persecutor to proclaimer of the Gospel. What areas of your life still need the transforming power of God's grace?
9. How does focusing on eternal, unseen realities rather than temporary, visible circumstances change your perspective on current trials?
10. What does it mean practically to be 'hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed' in your daily walk with Christ?

Dinner Conversation Starters

2 Corinthians 4

The Door Home

1. “No Kings?” – Who Really Rules Our Home?

The sermon mentioned “No Kings” protests and contrasted that with King Jesus. In our everyday life, who or what tends to act like “king” in our home (work, sports, screens, money, opinions)? If Jesus is truly King in our family, what would look different this week in how we talk, decide, or handle conflict?

2. The Door Home – What Are We Really Hoping For?

The message said we were “not designed for this world” and that Jesus is “The Door Home.” What are some things we hope will make us happy here (success, comfort, approval, etc.)? How is the hope Jesus offers different from those things? If we really believed Jesus is the Door to our true home, how might that change one priority in our week?

3. Life Is Hard – How Do We Respond to Hurt?

The sermon was very honest that “life is hard” and that our hurts are not a mistake in God’s plan. When life gets hard, what is each of our first instinct: to complain, withdraw, fix it ourselves, or go to God? Can anyone share a time when something painful eventually helped you grow closer to God or helped you help someone else?

4. Veils and Light – What Blinds Us?

Paul talked about a “veil” that blinds people to the light of the gospel, and that only Jesus can remove it. What are some modern “veils” that can blind people (and us) to who Jesus really is—busyness, entertainment, pride, church hurt, etc.? Is there any area where we feel God may be trying to “lift a veil” in our own hearts right now?

5. Living Hope – How Can We Encourage Each Other?

The sermon called Easter a “living hope,” not just a holiday. Where do each of us most need hope right now (school, work, health, relationships, faith)? What is one practical way we, as a family, can remind each other this week that Jesus has already given us victory, even when we don’t feel it?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

2 Corinthians 4

The Door Home

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Jesus is Our King and Our Father**: Help young kids see that Jesus is both the big, powerful King and the loving “Daddy” they can run to—like the story in the sermon.

Discussion Questions: When someone is mean to you, who can you run to first—like the boy ran to the king in the story?

If Jesus is our King and our Father, how do you think He feels when you are sad or left out?

What is one short prayer you could say to Jesus when you feel hurt? (Practice it together.)

2. **Jesus Is The Door Home – He Helps Us Do What’s Right**: Kids this age are learning to make simple choices. Help them see that “going through The Door Home” means choosing what makes Jesus happy, even when friends don’t.

Discussion Questions:

- a) If Jesus is a good Door that leads to safety and kindness, what do you think He wants you to do in that moment?
- b) Which choice is like walking toward Jesus: joining in the unkind thing, or standing up/kindly walking away?
- c) How could you show Jesus’ love to the person who is being left out or laughed at?

3. **When Life is Hard We Talk to Jesus**: Connect “life is hard” to their level—disappointments, sharing, bedtime, losing, etc.—and show that Jesus cares and helps.

Discussion Questions:

- a) How do you feel when you have to stop a game or share something you like?
- b) Do you think Jesus cares about how you feel, even in small things?
- c) If Jesus is with you, what is one right thing you can do even when it’s hard? (Example: share kindly, obey without yelling, say “thank you” instead of complaining.)

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Who’s Really King in My World?**: This age starts to care what friends think and can be pulled by groups or trends. Help them see when something is “acting like king” instead of Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- a) What are some things that sometimes act like “kings” in your life (friends’ opinions, games, YouTube, sports)?

- b) How can you tell when something is starting to be more important than what Jesus says?
- c) If Jesus is King, how might that change how much time you spend on certain games or videos?
- d) Is there one small change you could make this week to show Jesus is King—maybe a limit, a day off, or choosing something better?

2. **The Veil: What Blinds Us to God in Our Digital Life?**: Introduce the idea of a “veil” as anything that keeps them from seeing or caring about Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- a) What kinds of videos or games make it harder to think about God or care about what’s right?
- b) Have you ever watched something that, afterward, made you feel yucky, guilty, or farther from God?
- c) If you imagine your screen time as a big window, is it clear so you can see God, or is it getting foggy or dirty?
- d) What is one type of content you think Jesus would be pleased with—and one type you think He would want you to avoid or limit?

3. **Living Hope When Friends Are Unkind or Life Feels Unfair:** Connect “life is hard” and “living hope” to hurtful words, friend drama, and disappointment

Discussion Questions:

- a) When you feel left out or hurt by friends, what do you usually think about yourself? About God?
- b) The sermon said our hurts are part of God’s rescue plan, not a mistake. How could God possibly use being left out for something good?
- c) What would it look like to respond with Jesus’ hope instead of just anger or revenge? (Examples: pray for them, talk kindly, talk to a trusted adult, not join in drama online.)
- d) What truth about Jesus could you remember in those moments? (He loves me, He sees me, He is my King, etc.)

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Who or What is Shaping My Identity:** Teens are forming identity through peers, online culture, and performance. Tie this to “No Kings” and the sermon’s reminder: only Jesus is the rightful King.

Discussion Questions:

- a) Whose approval feels most powerful in your life right now: friends, followers, teachers, parents, or Jesus?
- b) In what ways do social media, group chats, or online games try to tell you what you should look like, act like, or care about?
- c) If Jesus is King and also “Dad” (like the boy in the throne room story), how should that reshape your sense of worth?

d) Are there voices online you might need to mute/unfollow so Jesus' voice is louder?

2. **The Door Home and Peer Pressure**: Teens regularly face invitations to “walk through” the wrong doors—group behavior, questionable humor, secret chats, sexting, gossip, substance experimentation, etc.

Discussion Questions:

- a) When your friends are going one direction, how do you know if that “door” leads toward Jesus or away from Him?
 - b) What kinds of group behaviors online feel like “the thief” (John 10:10) stealing joy, peace, or purity, instead of giving life?
 - c) If you imagined Jesus standing at a different door, what might He be inviting you to do in that same situation?
 - d) What’s one sentence you could use to step back from a wrong situation without embarrassing yourself or others? (Brainstorm together.)
3. **Life Is Hard: Carrying Hurt with Hope, Not Just Cynicism**: Older kids often wrestle with deeper hurts, doubts, and injustice. Connect this to 2 Corinthians 4: we are “earthen vessels,” but God’s power is in us, and our suffering is not wasted.

Discussion Questions:

- a) Where do you most feel “life is hard” right now—school, friends, family, your own mental health, what you see online?
- b) The sermon said the enemy uses hardship to breed doubt and lies about God. What lies are easiest for you to believe when you’re hurting (e.g., “God doesn’t care,” “I’m alone,” “Nothing will change”)?
- c) How might God use your struggles to grow compassion, strength, or faith in you—or to help someone else someday?
- d) What’s one way I (as your parent/guardian) can walk with you in your hard things, without trying to “fix” you too quickly?

Tips for Parents

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it’s okay to ask questions, even if things don’t make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z

2 Corinthians 4

The Door Home

1. One Way

Bible Reference: John 10:9–10: “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

Application: Jesus isn’t one option among many; He is The Door Home. Abundant life isn’t found in clout, hookups, approval, or aesthetics—it’s found in actually entering through Him and letting Him rule your choices.

Scenario: Everyone in your friend group is curating a certain image online—filtered pics, subtle flexes, risky outfits, thirst traps—because it “gets engagement.” You feel pressure to play the same game to belong, to date, or to be noticed.

Discussion: If Jesus is The Door to real life, what would it look like for you to walk through His door instead of the door of online approval in how you post, dress, or present yourself? What’s one practical boundary or change that would show you trust His definition of “abundant life” more than the algorithm’s?

2. Removing the Veil

Bible Reference: 2 Corinthians 4:4, 6: “...the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel... For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts...”

Application: There is a spiritual “veil.” Some content, voices, and vibes blind you to God. God’s Spirit wants to turn the light on in your heart, but you have to stop staring into the dark.

Scenario: Your For You / Explore page is full of content that’s dark, cynical, hyper-sexual, or nihilistic. Some of it is funny or feels “real,” but over time it leaves you numb, anxious, or more doubtful about God and life.

Discussion: Looking honestly at your feed, what kinds of content act like a “veil” that numb you or blind you to Jesus? If God wants His light to shine in your heart, what’s one specific type of content or creator you need to mute/unfollow or limit this week?

3. Seeing God Move When You Are Under Pressure

Bible Reference: 2 Corinthians 4:7–9: “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair...”

Application: You are fragile, not invincible—but you’re also not hopeless. Life is hard, but your cracks are where God’s power shows, not proof that He’s absent.

Scenario: You’re juggling academic pressure, family stress, anxiety, maybe church drama, and friend conflict. You feel hypocritical posting “I’m fine” while internally melting down. You wonder if following Jesus is even working.

Discussion: When you feel “hard pressed on every side,” what’s your default—numb out (scroll, binge), blow up (rage, vent), or reach out to God and trusted people? How could you start treating your struggles not as proof God doesn’t care, but as places where His power can show up through your weakness?

4. Servant of Jesus

Bible Reference: 2 Corinthians 4:5: “For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.”

Application: Your life—online and offline—isn’t supposed to be one long self-promo. Jesus is Lord; you’re a servant. That changes how you talk, post, clap back, and use your influence.

Scenario: In a group chat or Discord server, people are dragging someone who messed up or who doesn’t fit in. Subtweets, memes, and screenshots are flying. You know joining in will get you laughs and likes; staying quiet or defending them might cost you.

Discussion: If your role is “servant for Jesus’ sake,” how should that shape what you do in that moment—what you type, like, or share? What would it practically look like to proclaim Jesus, not yourself, in that situation?

These points aim to empower Gen Z to live out their faith genuinely and courageously in various aspects of their daily lives, reflecting Biblical integrity, compassion, and steadfastness.