



Discussion Guide

January 11

2 Corinthians 4:5–11

⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:5–11

1. What contrast is Paul making between the message and the messenger in verse 5? Why is that significant for us today?
2. How does verse 6 describe God's action and its result in our lives?
3. What does the metaphor 'treasure in jars of clay' in verse 7 mean? What encouragement does it offer?
4. Which pair of phrases in verses 8–9 do you most identify with right now?
5. How do verses 10–11 invite us to see brokenness differently?

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of

the world to shame the strong.²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.³¹ Therefore, as it is written: 'Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.'

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26–31

6. What does this passage teach us about how God sees value differently than the world?
7. Why might God intentionally choose the 'weak' or 'lowly'?
8. What encouragement is there in remembering who we were when we were called?
9. What does it mean to boast only in the Lord?
10. How do verses 30–31 summarize the gospel message?

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹ But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9

11. How does this verse challenge common views of strength and success?
12. What does it mean for Christ's power to 'rest on' someone?
13. How can we learn to embrace weakness instead of hiding it?