



Discussion Guide

January 18

2 Corinthians 4:16–18

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

1. How does Paul contrast outward and inward realities in verse 16?
2. What do verses 17–18 teach us about the way Christians should view suffering?
3. What does it mean to fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen? How can we practice that in a tangible, practical way?

Romans 5:3–5

³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

4. What is surprising about the sequence of suffering → perseverance → character → hope?
5. How might this passage reframe the way we view our trials?
6. What does it mean that 'hope does not put us to shame'?

Isaiah 61:1–3

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

7. What are the signs of healing and renewal that the Lord brings?
8. How does this passage speak to people who are experiencing brokenness or grief?
9. What is the significance of receiving a 'garment of praise' instead of a 'faint spirit'?