

**MESSAGE NOTES:**

**2 Corinthians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup>If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely. <sup>6</sup>The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. <sup>7</sup>Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. <sup>8</sup>I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. <sup>9</sup>Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. <sup>10</sup>Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, <sup>11</sup>in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

## STUDY GUIDE:

### STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):

- Have you ever had a valuable possession that was broken beyond repair? What was it? How did it make you feel in that moment?

### STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **2 Corinthians 2:5-11**.

### STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. In this passage, Paul addresses a situation where someone has sinned against him and the church in Corinth. Even though the situation was serious, Paul avoided naming both the person and the situation. What lesson can we learn from this?
3. The offender in question is said to have caused "grief" or "pain" to the community. Based on this passage, how did the community react to this person? How do you tend to react when someone grieves you?
4. **Read Matthew 18:15-20.** What does this passage teach us about dealing with offense? What should be the goal of church discipline?
5. Paul instructs the church to "forgive and comfort him." What does this teach us about what true restoration looks like?
6. Re-read verses 10-11. What does this verse teach us about Satan's schemes in the church? How can we best guard ourselves?
7. Unfortunately, forgiveness and restoration are not always a one-time event. **Consider Ephesians 4:32.** Where does our ability to forgive and restore relationships come from?

### STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.