



THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST
A STUDY THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS





WELCOME TO OUR BIBLE STUDY!

PURPOSE: Learning the truths of the Bible and applying them to our lives. We meet together and worship followed by the teaching. We break up into small groups to discuss the homework completed for the week and to pray.

PREPARING YOUR LESSON:

1. The only book you will need to answer the questions is the Bible.
2. Pray before you begin your study. Ask God to help you understand and He will do this for you. Write out your answer.
3. As you read the homework, make it a point to underline scripture. Write thoughts and personal applications that have been helpful to you.
4. If you have problems with your lesson, call your leader. She is there to help you.
5. Keep in mind that the more time you can put into the study, the more you will get out of it.

PARTICIPATING IN A SMALL GROUP:

1. If you are new to Bible study, do not be disturbed if you are not able to answer every question. As you study, you will pick up speed in doing your lessons. You will also build up your understanding of the Bible and will soon discover that you are able to enjoy and answer more and more questions each week.
2. Be willing to share personal experiences or ways in which the Lord has helped you. Your experience may be just the encouragement someone in your group will appreciate and find helpful. Because time is short, be brief so others will have time to share.
3. If you tend to be talkative, please do not monopolize the discussion. Give quiet people a chance to express themselves also. If you are timid, you do not need to participate in the discussion until you feel comfortable.
4. There may be people from different churches in your discussion group. Make it a point not to discuss other churches or other pastors. We discuss only the Bible questions and what they mean to us personally.
5. Please do not bring other materials to share.
6. If you represent a business or other endeavor, this is not the time or place to promote or sell.

REMEMBER –WHAT IS SAID IN THE GROUP, STAYS IN THE GROUP!



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST



SCHEDULE

January 29 Week 1 II Corinthians 1:1-24
February 5 Week 2 II Corinthians 2:1-3:6
February 12 **HOLIDAY: NO STUDY**
February 19 **HOLIDAY: NO STUDY**
February 26 Week 3 II Corinthians 3:7-4:18
March 5 Week 4 II Corinthians 5:1-6:10
March 12 **HOLIDAY: NO STUDY**
March 19 Week 5 II Corinthians 6:11-7:16
March 26 Week 6 II Corinthians 8:1-24
April 2 **HOLIDAY: NO STUDY**
April 9 Week 7 II Corinthians 9:1-10:11
April 16 Week 8 II Corinthians 10:12-11:21
April 23 Week 9 II Corinthians 11:21-12:13
April 30 Week 10 II Corinthians 12:14-13:14



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST



Dear sweet friend,

Picture a beautiful garden filled with fragrant flowers. Take a deep breath. Can you almost smell the giant roses, the fragrant lilacs, the climbing jasmine, and the abounding honeysuckle? In the book of 2 Corinthians Paul draws from the picture of you and I being the fragrance of Christ. We are the aroma of His love that He has placed within the earthen vessels of our lives.

As we study this book we will see that Paul reminds us that we have the Holy Spirit as our guarantee of all that is to come. He is in a sense our engagement ring, a promise and a reminder that our Groom is on His way. Paul declares that all this should move us into holy living, and reminds us that we have some responsibilities while we are here on earth. We are called to be the ambassadors of Christ, sent to spread the good news of His love. We are called to keep ourselves separate from this world, remembering that everything we see, touch, and feel is passing away and all that will remain is that which is not seen. God's focus is on teaching us to be those who comfort others with the reminder of heaven and all that awaits us. I'm excited to let God turn our eyes heavenward as we study this book together!

Love,

Christy Duff

SECOND CORINTHIANS

INDUCTIVE STUDY HELP

This year our homework format will be similar to what we did through the study of First Peter. My heart, in going through Second Corinthians in this more inductive manner, is that we would grow together in our ability to simply sit down, read the word of God, understand what He is saying, and then walk it out in the power of the Holy Spirit. I know that this type may be a challenge to some, so I wanted to give you some tools that may be helpful to you as we begin our journey through Second Corinthians together! Listed below are just a few different ways to study a passage. I find these helpful as I prepare a Bible study, so I hope that as we dig into these chapters together that you will find them helpful too!

Let's read this through, pray this in, and walk it out together as we journey together through the book of Second Corinthians. Let's remember as we dig into this book that all the promises in Christ are yes and amen! 2 Corinthians 1:20

Love, Christy

Saturation | Investigation | Explanation | Application

Saturation:

1. Read the passage through several times. Consider reading a variety of translations.
2. Read before and after passage to keep context.
3. Write down any thoughts or questions you may have.

Investigation:

1. Who is speaking, who is the author?
2. To whom is he speaking?
3. What is the reason or purpose for writing?

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4. What is the background?
5. List facts.
6. Identify any contrasts.
7. Are there any repeated words or phrases?
8. Identify any metaphors or analogies.
9. List key words or phrases. Look them up in a dictionary, or even on Google.
10. Ask who, what, where, why, when, and how.
11. Is there a list of anything? (i.e. Galatians 5- Fruit of the Spirit)
12. Is there a description given?
13. Is there a quotation used? If so, where is it taken from and what is it referring to?
14. Is there a progression or digression?
15. What does this passage tell me about God the Father, Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit?
16. Identify the main point of the passage.
17. What does the author want to communicate?

Meditation:

1. Think on the passage.
2. Pray about the passage.
3. Keep place for notes as you think about it. (phone, iPad, sticky notes, etc.)

Application:

1. Is there a command to obey?
2. Is there a promise to claim?
3. Is there a warning to heed?
4. Is there an example to follow or avoid?
5. What does this passage mean to me?
6. Is there an action or attitude I need to take or change? (Do I need to forgive someone, etc.)
7. What lessons or applications can be drawn from this passage?

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CORINTHIANS

GREAT TOOLS & RESOURCES AVAILABLE

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org

www.biblegateway.com

Logos Software

Be Encouraged by: Warren Wiersbe

Halley's Bible Handbook by: Henry Halley

Jon Courson's Application Bible Commentary



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST



Week I // II Corinthians 1:1-24

Dear sweet friend,

Let's start with verse 20 that tells us - no matter how many promises God has made to us they are all "Yes and Amen!" Then, go to the opening promises that are so special to each one of us - "The God of all comfort who comforts us in all our troubles." Amen! And then Paul who felt like he had the sentence of death because of great hardships saying, "Those things happened to us so that we would not rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead!"

You and I can trust our God who...raises the dead! YES & AMEN

Love,

Carolyn Haynes



"...the
FATHER OF
Mercies

AND GOD of all

Comfort

2 CORINTHIANS
1:3

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CORINTHIANS

Week 1 // II Corinthians 1:1-24

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin.

Then read this week's verses twice in two different translations if possible.

1. Notes from reading:

2. What title would you give these verses?

3. Ask God in prayer which verse He would like you to memorize from this section. Write it out below and commit it to memory. It would also be a good idea to write it out on an index card to carry with you throughout the week.

4. Which verse in this section is one you would really 'chew' on and meditate upon? Take each word and think in depth what each word means so that you get the full impact of the verse. Write it out and then go back over each word.

5. What do you notice about God in this section, and from which verses?
(i.e., about His character, His attributes, His ways)

6. What do you notice about life in this section, and from which verses?
(i.e., its tendencies, progressions, temptations, outcomes)

7. What application do you think the Holy Spirit desires to bring into your life from this section? Take a few minutes to pray this in.

8. Are there any questions you have about this section or any verses in it? Pray over them, asking God to show you answers. Feel free also to ask your group leader during group time.

Other resources you consulted:

Commentary Suggestions:

- Warren Wiersbe's 'Be Encouraged' commentary on II Corinthians.
- Halley's Bible Handbook
- Jon Courson application Bible commentary

Website Suggestions:

- Precept Austin
- Bible hub
- Bible Gateway
- Blue Letter Bible

Optional Cross References

God of comfort (*II Corinthians 1:4*)

Isaiah 51:12

Partakers of His sufferings (*II Corinthians 1:7*)

Philippians 3:10

Together in prayer (*II Corinthians 1:11*)

Romans 15:30

Faith and power (*II Corinthians 1:12*)

I Corinthians 2: 4,5

Sealed with the Holy Spirit (*II Corinthians 1:22*)

Ephesians 1:13

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

January 29, 2018



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST



Week 2 // II Corinthians 2:1-3:6

Dear sweet friend,

The Corinthians are in a backslide of “Spiritual Pride” again. This time the church has been sinned against by a brother. It does not detail the sin but it too probably involved some sort of “Spiritual Pride.” Paul reminds the Corinthians to forgive. Correction within the body is to be done with the hope of restoration, not unlike how the Lord corrects us and forgives us. Paul points out that taking the correction further, without the opportunity for restoration, plays right into Satan’s hand, and may push them away from the flock. Paul ends this section, praising the Lord for the ministry he has been given, and reminding the Corinthians that the ministry is not theirs to take ownership of or attempt to lead. All that is done should be for God’s glory and through His Spirit.

Love,

Mary Lovitt

"NOW THANKS BE TO
God who always

LEADS US ^{IN} TRIUMPH
IN CHRIST

AND through us

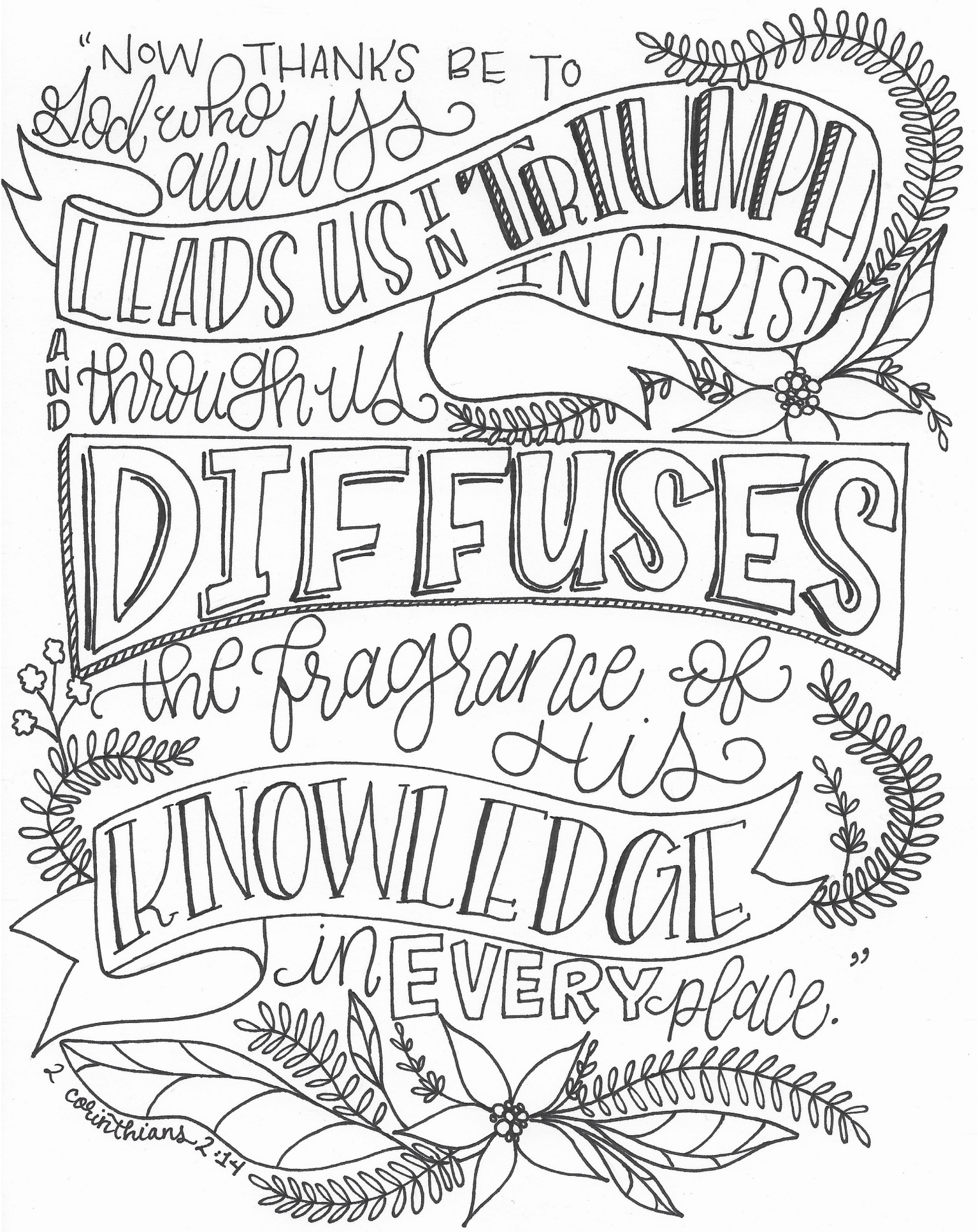
DIFFUSES

the fragrance of
His

KNOWLEDGE

in EVERY place."

2 corinthians 2:14



SECOND
CORINTHIANS

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Optional Cross References

Sufficient as ministers (*II Corinthians 2:5,6*)

James 3:13

Forgiveness (*II Corinthians 2:7*)

Galatians 6:1

Shield of faith (*II Corinthians 2:11*)

Ephesians 6:16

Fragrance of Christ (*II Corinthians 2:15*)

Ephesians 5:2

Epistle of Christ (*II Corinthians 3:3*)

Psalms 40:8

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

February 5, 2018



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
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Week 3 // II Corinthians 3:7-4:18

Dear sweet friend,

I have to admit, when I look into the mirror, it's apparent to me that I am not becoming more glorious. Time... trials... and too many tacos take their toll on the outward appearance. Aren't you so thankful that isn't the way things work spiritually? Regardless of your physical condition, or the difficulties you face, you are becoming more and more beautiful, like Jesus. By looking into the mirror of His Word, talking to Him, and walking in close fellowship with Him, you are being transformed into His image. "Therefore we do not lose heart," don't you just love those precious words? No matter how heavy and relentless our trials may seem, they are light and momentary when compared to the eternal joy we will experience when we finally see Jesus face to face. So, let's look to the unseen! Let's focus on the eternal.

Love,

Joni McCoy

"WE ARE
Hard-pressed on every side
YET NOT CRUSHED
we are perplexed ^{but}
NOT IN DESPAIR
persecuted ^{but}
NOT FORSAKEN
struck down ^{but}
NOT DESTROYED
ALWAYS CARRYING ABOUT IN ^{THE} BODY
the dying of the Lord Jesus
2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-10
MAY BE
THAT THE LIFE OF JESUS ALSO
MANIFESTED
in OUR body."

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CORINTHIANS

Week 3 // II Corinthians 3:7-4:18

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Optional Cross References

Gospel of Christ (*II Corinthians 3:7*)

Romans 1:16, 17

Compared to His image (*II Corinthians 3:18*)

Romans 8:29

Do not lose heart (*II Corinthians 4:1*)

Isaiah 40:29

Clean vessel (*II Corinthians 4:7*)

II Timothy 2:21

Faith (*II Corinthians 4:18*)

Hebrews 11:1



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST



Week 4 // II Corinthians 5:1-6:10

Dear sweet friend,

When we step (with the Lord's help) from darkness into the light of salvation, everything becomes new and we see all things in a different light. Our views of God, people around us, and even our own bodies change. We begin to live a life of paradoxes where we die to ourselves in order to fully live (verses 6:7-10 NKJV).

Do you remember when God first flipped on the light in your heart? Has it been a long time? Has the light become dim and hard to see?

It is so easy to become either too discouraged or too comfortable in this earthly tent. But we must remember the reality of the foundation of our faith: that Jesus opened the door both to heaven and the Father for us. Because of Jesus when we leave behind these weary bodies we will be raised again to a new, better, perfect life with Him!

Love,

Laura Thomas

2 Corinthians
5:17

therefore
if anyone is
IN CHRIST

he is a

NEW
CREATION

old things have
passed away

BELIOLD

ALL THINGS

have
become NEW.



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CORINTHIANS

Week 4 // II Corinthians 5:1-6:10

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Optional Cross References

Sealed by the Spirit (*II Corinthians 5:5*)

Ephesians 1:13-14

Pleasing to Him (*II Corinthians 5:9*)

I Thessalonians 2:4

Future rewards (*II Corinthians 5:10*)

Romans 3:16

New creation (*II Corinthians 5:17*)

John 6:63

Jesus (*II Corinthians 5:21*)

I Peter 2:22

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

March 5, 2018



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST



Week 5 // II Corinthians 6:11-7:16

Dear sweet friend,

Paul's ministry of love for the Corinthians shines forth in this week's passage. Having reflected on God's grace in reconciling them to Himself through Christ, Paul urges believers onward in the power of the Holy Spirit. Meditate this week on Paul's words to the Corinthians, for they are words to us as well. He speaks first of their being the temple of the living God, and of the responsibility we have in Christ to keep that temple free from darkness. The Corinthians had failed to do that. Through a painful prior letter to them, Paul admonished them to repent from their sin and wrongdoing. We, too, need to receive Paul's urgings to reach deep within ourselves to a godly sorrow over our sin and a determined repentance. Imagine the joy the Lord will feel as we do.

Loving you so,
Carolee Howell



2 COR 6:16

I WILL DWELL AMONG
SIN. WALK WITH
AMONG THEM

I WILL BE THEIR
GOD AND THEY SHALL BE
MY PEOPLE.

AND THEY SHALL BE

My people.

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CORINTHIANS

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Optional Cross References

Unequally yoked (*II Corinthians 6:14*)

Ephesians 5:11

Gods temple (*II Corinthians 6:16*)

I Corinthians 3:16

Cleanse ourselves (*II Corinthians 7:1*)

I John 3:3

Joyful in tribulation (*II Corinthians 7:4*)

Philippians 2:17

Confidence (*II Corinthians 7:16*)

II Thessalonians 3:4



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
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Week 6 // II Corinthians 8:1-24

Dear sweet friend,

We all love getting gifts, but finding and giving someone the perfect gift brings so much more joy to our soul. We know that the Lord brought so much joy to us by giving us the Perfect Gift, His Son, for our salvation. In II Corinthians 8 we are encouraged to be generous givers no matter our circumstances and wealth, or lack thereof. We are commanded to give of ourselves, first to the Lord, and then to others. Research today shows that those struggling with depression or grief benefit from volunteering time to others in need. Paul describes how the church gave generously during trial and poverty and was filled with abundant joy. God created us and knows us best, so give generously of yourself to God and others, and watch your joy abound.

Love,

Dianna Gritters



for you know the grace of our
LORD JESUS CHRIST

THAT
though he was rich
YET FOR YOUR SAKES

he became poor
THAT YOU

THROUGH HIS POVERTY
MIGHT RICH

become

2 COR 8:9

SECOND
CORINTHIANS

Week 6 // II Corinthians 8:1-24

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Optional Cross References

Example of Christ (*II Corinthians 8:7*)

I Corinthians 1:5

Giving (*II Corinthians 8:12*)

Mark 12:43

Showing readiness (*II Corinthians 8:19*)

II Corinthians 4:15

Honorable conduct (*II Corinthians 8:21*)

I Peter 2:12

Great boasting (*II Corinthians 8:24*)

II Corinthians 7:4



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
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Week 7 // II Corinthians 9:1-10:11

Dear sweet friend,

This week we touch on spiritual strongholds—YIKES, what's that? Ever struggled with fear, rejection, anger, or pride? These can all become strongholds if we allow them any space in our hearts. I had a forty-year relationship with fear that affected my body greatly and produced panic attacks. God so lovingly showed me that my fear was linked with the need to be "in control" and I needed to trust the One who controls the whole universe. It was by far the darkest time of my life, but also the most freeing, loving and sweetest in-depth time with the Lord. He DOES bring beauty from ashes! We resist strongholds with God's mighty weapons—prayer, faith, righteousness, and the Word of God, to name a few. Always remember, "Greater is He who is in me, than he who is in the world"!

xoxo,

Missy McCoy



"She
who sows
BOUNTIFULLY
will also
reap
BOUNTIFULLY."

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6

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CORINTHIANS

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Optional Cross References

Ministering to the saints (*II Corinthians 9:1*)

Galatians 2:10

Sowing and reaping (*II Corinthians 9:6*)

Proverbs 22:9

Giving (*II Corinthians 9:7*)

Deuteronomy 15:7

Abundance (*II Corinthians 9:8*)

Proverbs 11:25

Weapons (*II Corinthians 10:4*)

Ephesians 6:13



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
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Week 8 // II Corinthians 10:12-11:21

Dear sweet friend,

This week, in the context of taking every thought captive to Christ, Paul instructs his readers that it is not wise to measure oneself against another. God, knowing this is a human weakness, encourages His disciples not to exalt self or gifts that He gave us to serve others with. The followers of Jesus are called to perfection - even the most arrogant won't hang up that shingle! Paul reminds us to continue to communicate the true gospel, minister God's love to others, and to be watchful for false apostles. Paul said that he was "jealous with a godly jealousy" for those he taught, desiring to present his readers to Christ as a pure Bride. We agree, Lord! He reminds us to boast only in the Lord, for His approval alone is worth considering. Grace and peace from God our Father and His Son, our holy, matchless Lord.

Sincerely,

Gale Futterman



The
WHO
GLORIFIES
let him
GLORY
IN THE
LORD.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:17

SECOND
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4. Which verse in this section is one you would really 'chew' on and meditate upon? Take each word and think in depth what each word means so that you get the full impact of the verse. Write it out and then go back over each word.

5. What do you notice about God in this section, and from which verses?
(i.e., about His character, His attributes, His ways)

6. What do you notice about life in this section, and from which verses? (i.e., its tendencies, progressions, temptations, outcomes)

7. What application do you think the Holy Spirit desires to bring into your life from this section? Take a few minutes to pray this in.

8. Are there any questions you have about this section or any verses in it? Pray over them, asking God to show you answers. Feel free also to ask your group leader during group time.

Other resources you consulted:

Commentary Suggestions:

- Warren Wiersbe's 'Be Encouraged' commentary on II Corinthians.
- Halley's Bible Handbook
- Jon Courson application Bible commentary

Website Suggestions:

- Precept Austin
- Bible hub
- Bible Gateway
- Blue Letter Bible

Optional Cross References

Glory in the Lord (*II Corinthians 10:17,18*)

Jeremiah 9:23,24

Simplicity in Christ (*II Corinthians 11:3*)

Acts 16:31

Free of charge (*II Corinthians 11:7, 8*)

I Corinthians 9:12

False apostles (*II Corinthians 11:13*)

Philippians 1:15

Boasting (*II Corinthians 11:17*)

I Corinthians 7:6

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

April 16, 2018



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST



Week 9 // II Corinthians 11:21-12:13

Dear sweet friend,

We read of Paul's sufferings and it may cause you to reflect on your own sufferings. How do you see these circumstances? Paul tells us that he would rather boast in his weakness. Isn't that different than what the world would have you do? We see how the Lord reminds us that His grace is sufficient because His power is made perfect in weakness. Isn't that exciting? Let us be those people who boast in our Lord and who He is. Let us delight in these things, knowing that God's power rests on us through everything we face.

With Love,
Alisa Cox



my GRACE IS SUFFICIENT
FOR YOU

FOR MY STRENGTH

is made

PERFECT IN WEAKNESS

2 COR 12:9

SECOND
CORINTHIANS

Week 9 // II Corinthians 11:21-12:13

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin.
Then read this week's verses twice in two different translations if possible.

1. Notes from reading:

2. What title would you give these verses?

3. Ask God in prayer which verse He would like you to memorize from this section. Write it out below and commit it to memory. It would also be a good idea to write it out on an index card to carry with you throughout the week.

4. Which verse in this section is one you would really 'chew' on and meditate upon? Take each word and think in depth what each word means so that you get the full impact of the verse. Write it out and then go back over each word.

5. What do you notice about God in this section, and from which verses?
(i.e., about His character, His attributes, His ways)

6. What do you notice about life in this section, and from which verses? (i.e., its tendencies, progressions, temptations, outcomes)

7. What application do you think the Holy Spirit desires to bring into your life from this section? Take a few minutes to pray this in.

8. Are there any questions you have about this section or any verses in it? Pray over them, asking God to show you answers. Feel free also to ask your group leader during group time.

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Optional Cross References

Labors more abundantly (*II Corinthians 11:23a*)

I Corinthians 15:10

Suffering for Christ (*II Corinthians 11:23b*)

Acts 9:16

Revelation of Jesus Christ (*II Corinthians 12:1*)

Galatians 1:12

Thorn in the flesh (*II Corinthians 12:7*)

Job 2:7

Power of Christ (*II Corinthians 12:9b*)

I Peter 4:14

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

April 23, 2018



GROWING THROUGH SECOND CORINTHIANS
THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST



Week 10 // II Corinthians 12:14-13:14

Dear sweet friend,

As we enter into our final week of study in II Corinthians, we see the apostle Paul's heart for his beloved brethren in Corinth. Throughout II Corinthians, Paul has had to deal with the important issues of false teachers and false accusations being made. Paul's credentials and motivations were maligned. In addition to this, the believers were not maturing in Christ as they ought to. Paul's final words in this letter reveal his heart for these believers. What do his final words reveal about your heart? As you read this week, note what Paul's purpose is for writing this letter. It is always good to "test" ourselves to see if we are in the faith. Note what fruit is evident in your life? Are the deeds of the flesh still dominating, or is the love of God flowing through you? Finally, **What fragrance are you wearing?**

Love and holy kisses,

Linda Chavous

"BECOME COMPLETE
of good comfort"

BE OF
ONE MIND
live in peace

AND THE GOD OF
LOVE AND PEACE
will be with you."

2 Corinthians 13:11

SECOND
CORINTHIANS

Week 10 // II Corinthians 12:14-13:14

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin.
Then read this week's verses twice in two different translations if possible.

1. Notes from reading:

2. What title would you give these verses?

3. Ask God in prayer which verse He would like you to memorize from this section. Write it out below and commit it to memory. It would also be a good idea to write it out on an index card to carry with you throughout the week.

4. Which verse in this section is one you would really 'chew' on and meditate upon? Take each word and think in depth what each word means so that you get the full impact of the verse. Write it out and then go back over each word.

5. What do you notice about God in this section, and from which verses?
(i.e., about His character, His attributes, His ways)

6. What do you notice about life in this section, and from which verses? (i.e., its tendencies, progressions, temptations, outcomes)

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Optional Cross References

Edification (*II Corinthians 12:19*)

I Corinthians 10:33

Power of God (*II Corinthians 13:4*)

I Peter 3:18

Christ in you (*II Corinthians 13:5*)

Galatians 4:19

Be complete (*II Corinthians 13:9b*)

I Thessalonians 3:10

Be of one mind (*II Corinthians 13:11*)

Romans 12:16

