

Gospel Partnership
Courage in a Hostile Culture
2 Corinthians 4:7-18

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24 ESV

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:18 ESV

Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- What is one stereotype you have heard about Christians?
- How have you responded to those stereotypes?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read 2nd Corinthians 4:7-18. Why do you think Paul is comparing the believers to treasures in jars of clay?
- How do Paul's own experiences as an evangelist align with his message in this section?
- Read Romans 8:18. What awaits those who suffer for Christ's Name?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- Have you ever felt persecuted? If so in what way?
- How has Jesus helped you in times of persecution?
- What is the difference between the persecution of the early church and now? Is it different? What can we learn from the early church?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- How can we as a church support one another when faced with struggles and persecution?
- How will you love your enemy?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How's your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.