

Scripture

2 Corinthians 4

Ice Breaker

1. What is something that you have found encouraging this week?
2. What is something that causes you stress and that you wish didn't bother you?

Going Deeper

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6.
2. In chapter 4, Paul is still responding to accusations from the church about the way he conducts his ministry. Based on what he says in what we just read, what allegations do you think he was facing?
3. What does Paul communicate with the image of light in verses 4-6?
4. Based on this section, what does Paul see as his job description?
5. How does the way Paul received his ministry (verses 1 and 6) make a difference in the way he conducts his ministry (verses 2-5)?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12.
7. Paul begins a description in verses 7-12 of what life is like for a genuine apostle. How does Paul view his experience as an apostle?
8. Why does Paul use the image of a jar of clay? What do you think that means?
9. How is it that both life and death can be at work in someone at the same time?
10. Paul says here he has been persecuted but not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed. Sometimes when we go through a hard time we can feel abandoned or destroyed. Have there been times where you felt that way but looking back you could see that you were neither abandoned or destroyed?
11. Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-18.
12. In verse 13 Paul quotes from Psalms 116:10. Quickly look over Psalms 116. How does this psalm fit with what Paul is writing in this section?
13. How does Paul not lose heart?
14. Why is it sometimes easy to be disheartened when we go through struggle and change? What can we do to not lose heart?
15. What do you think God wants to speak into your life from what we read in 2 Corinthians chapter 4?