

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

2 Corinthians 4:8-18

LEADER'S STUDY

Eternal Perspective:

Everyone has a lens that they view the world through. Everything gets filtered through it. Circumstances, relationships, scripture, and even God himself. Before we came to faith in Christ the lens we viewed the world through revolved around ourselves and our flesh. When Jesus came into the world He offered a completely different lens to look through and live through. Viewing the world through the lens of the gospel completely changes our perspective. How we deal with trials, difficulties, persecution, temptation and suffering has everything to do with how Jesus already dealt with these things on our behalf. For the person who is trusting Jesus by faith, difficult circumstances are viewed through a very different lens. Because Jesus lived the perfect life that I should have lived and He took the punishment I should have received, I now have His perfect righteousness before God. There is nothing more I can do to earn this than he has already done for me and there is nothing I can ever pay to gain it. It is the gift of God's grace. For the person who has been fully effected by this grace EVERYTHING looks different. As you read this passage look for the grace of God. How does it affect you? Your circumstances? The future? Your decisions? How does it change your thinking? How does this change in thinking change your actions? Your plans? Your relationships? Ask these questions and spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help you see everything through this new lens.

How does the gospel change your thinking? What are the things that are unseen that scripture is referring to? Where do you find Jesus between the lines of this scripture? How can you follow Him in obedience? Be willing to share areas that he is calling your to "follow Him" and make clear I statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: James 5:7-20, John 17:14-21, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Matthew 5:43-48, Heb 11:23-40
What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading this whole chapter and meditating on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

PURPOSE: Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

PRAY: Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

PLAN: As you prepare for your group things to remember:

- Relationships are the primary way we glorify God. Healthy deep relationships that lead each other to know and follow Jesus are built on trust.
- Share stories of how God is working in your heart and how you or others are taking steps of growth

A Culture of Going:

The message of the Gospel is good news like no other. It literally gives life to the dead and it is available to everyone who would put their faith in Jesus and follow Him. When you have been given life through Jesus you want to tell everyone about Him. Pray for opportunities and boldness to share that good news with your world this week.

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

READ AGAIN in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

Or try retelling the story in your own words with your bibles closed, then look to see what you missed, changed, moved or left out.

(With larger portions of scripture, it's good for multiple people to read it aloud. Especially online, this helps people get used to using their voice)

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

STUDY QUESTIONS

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

**What have you learned or discovered about people from this passage?
Another way to ask is: How can people respond?**

How does the gospel change your thinking?

Where do you find Jesus between the lines of this scripture?

What other places in scripture affirm what this says?

What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How are you going to obey this passage?

What is your “I will” statement?
(Encourage everyone to steer clear of “we” or “us” or “Christians” statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?
(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears the it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?