

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

2 Corinthians 4:1-7

LEADER'S STUDY

Sharing the gospel by the Holy Spirit:

Jesus calls us friends. He laid down his life for us. The deepest expression of love for another person is to introduce others to Jesus. Jesus has called and appointed Christians to bear fruit. He promises to answer our prayers when we pray for lost people. Living this way, brings overflowing joy into our lives. The essential truth of the gospel is that all who believe are accepted by God, but how can people hear if believers are not speaking freely about who God is and what He is doing in their lives? (Romans 10:13-14). We know that spiritual rebirth is the work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:6-8). We know the Spirit of Truth is the one who regenerates hearts (John 16:7-13). We know it was the Holy Spirit who gave the Disciples power to do God's work after Jesus ascended (Acts 1:8). But we also know that God has placed the great treasure of the light of the gospel in us (2 Corinthians 4:5-7). People who are being transformed by the Holy Spirit through the gospel can't contain it within themselves. They just have to tell others about it. Simply put, believers are partners with each other and with God in the gospel (2 Cor 6:1).

As you prepare for this week ask yourself questions like this. What has God done for me? How is God changing my life? How has God given me freedom through the gospel? How is God inviting me to share this incredibly good news with others? How is God's great love shining out of my life? How is God revealing Himself and his character through this scripture? How is God changing my thinking? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: Acts 2:38-39, John 3:5-8, Titus 3:4-8, Acts 4:29-31, 1 Cor 3:5-9
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: It is not too early to start looking for new leaders within your group. We will be holding a new leader training this summer for groups to launch in the fall. As you identify potential leaders, encourage them to come to that training and start talking about what it would look like to launch a new group. You might even consider coming with them to help them take that next step.

Consider taking some time to break into small groups for prayer. This is a way for people to feel more comfortable sharing personal needs and praying specifically for one another.

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ 2 Corinthians 4:1-7

And meditate on it.

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

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

(With larger portions of scripture like this, 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.

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What seems to be the main point of these verses?

How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?

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

Look at one or two key words and define them really clearly, then look at them in context with that definition. Does this change your understanding?

Why did God bring me to this scripture today?

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?