



CORINTHIANS

III

# CORINTHIANS



*discussion guide  
table of contents*

WK 1 - 9/15	4	WK 6 - 10/20	14
WK 2 - 9/22	6	WK 7 - 10/27	16
WK 3 - 9/29	8	WK 8 - 11/3	18
WK 4 - 10/6	10	WK 9 - 11/10	20
WK 5 - 10/13	12	WK 10 - 11/17	22

Week of  
**9/15**

**2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11**

# Chapter 1:1-11

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1. What does the description given of God in verse 3 tell us about the kind of father that God is?
2. In what ways has God provided you comfort during times of trouble? How have your experiences enabled you to uniquely share that comfort with others?
3. Can you describe what it means to “share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ”?
4. In what ways do you tend to rely on yourself in your day to day life as verse 9 indicates? What do you think it could look like in those instances to trust in God instead?
5. How do the sufferings and comforts of one Christian (in this case, Paul) lead to perseverance and salvation in the lives of other Christians as we see in verse 6?
6. What are some ways that you have experienced the comfort of God through your GC? What are some practical steps that we can take as a GC to intentionally grow in this area?

Week of

9/22

**2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-22**

# Chapter 1:12-22

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1. Where does verse 12 indicate Paul's confidence is placed? How can we make sure our consciences are aligned with the word of God?
2. In verse 18, Paul describes God as "faithful." How does scripture define and highlight this attribute of God? How have you experienced God's faithfulness in your life?
3. What is the opposite of the faithfulness described in verse 18? How are you prone to be unfaithful in the relationships that God has given you?
4. How does God sealing us with the promised Holy Spirit help us stand firm in Christ?
5. What are some examples of how people might try to "lord it over" others' faith (verse 24)? How are we called to live differently here?

Week of  
**9/29**

**2 CORINTHIANS 2:1-11**

# Chapter 2:1-11

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1. Verses 5-7 discuss church discipline. We can tend to respond in two opposite ways when it comes to dealing with sinners in the church: too lenient and too harsh. Why is it vital for churches to avoid either extreme?
2. How does the process of church discipline benefit someone's spiritual restoration and the health of the church?
3. What are some signs or symptoms of unforgiveness that we might notice within our own hearts? How have you seen this come up in your life?
4. Paul says that lack of forgiveness is a design of Satan. How does Satan take advantage of our unforgiveness?
5. How does the Gospel compel us to be the kind of community that takes sin seriously and graciously restores repentant sinners? What are some ways that we can live this out practically in our relationships?



*Week of*

**10/06**

**2 CORINTHIANS 2:12-17**

## Chapter 2:12-17

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1. Have you ever felt pulled in multiple directions as Paul does in verse 13? What does it look like to follow the Spirit in decision making?
2. What is the significance of the imagery of fragrance in verses 14-16? What does this metaphor reveal about the impact of our lives on those around us?
3. What are the different responses to the Gospel that Paul outlines in verse 16? Knowing that there will be different responses to the Gospel, how does this bring peace to you?
4. In verse 17, Paul talks about “peddlers of God’s word” who would take scripture and water down its message. How have you been tempted to water down the Word of God to make it more palatable to our culture?
5. In light of this passage, how do you feel the Lord calling you to action this week? How can this group support each other in this area?

Week of

**10/13**

**2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-6**

# Chapter 3:1-6

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1. Where did Paul's confidence (and competence) come from? Where was it NOT placed?
2. What does it mean to find your sufficiency in God instead of being self-sufficient?
3. What does self-sufficiency look like for you in your day to day life, and what is the fruit of that?
4. How does God's grace in writing His word on your heart change the way you interact with your sin? (Rom. 7:6) According to verse 6, what does this now make you?
5. How should this reality shape the way we communicate our failings with unbelievers? Have you had opportunities to share God's grace through your strengths and especially your weaknesses?

Week of  
**10/20**

**2 CORINTHIANS 3:6-18**

# Chapter 3:6-18

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1. Why did Moses' face glow (Exodus 34:29-35)? What's the difference between the spread of God's glory in Moses' time when compared to our own time (verses 7-8)?
2. How would you describe the word "glory"? What are some things in our culture that we tend to ascribe glory to? What are you prone to ascribe glory to in your own life?
3. What is it about the Gospel that brings boldness (verses 12-13)? Where is the Spirit calling you to boldness in your life right now?
4. How does the freedom described in verse 17 show up in our lives as Christians? Are there specific areas where you are currently longing for the Spirit to bring freedom in your life?
5. Is the description of sanctification in verse 18 (from one degree of glory to the next) encouraging to you or discouraging? Why?
6. Where is God inviting you to celebrate and give thanks for His work in transforming you from one degree of glory to another?

Week of

**10/27**

**2 CORINTHIANS 3:18-4:6**

# Chapter 3:18-4:6

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1. Why would Paul and his fellow ministers be tempted to lose heart? What keeps them from this discouragement? Where are you tempted to lose heart right now?
2. Who is the “god of this world”? What does verse 4 teach you about his activity in the lives and minds of unbelievers?
3. What do these verses teach us about God’s power to transform hearts? How can verses 3-4 help us have compassion and mercy on people who are rejecting us and the gospel we are sharing?
4. As you read these verses, are there specific names or faces or people that come to mind? How is God inviting you to share the light of the knowledge of the glory of God with those individuals? How can our GC be a support in this?



Week of  
**11/3**

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-18**

# Chapter 4:7-18

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1. What is the “treasure” Paul refers to in verses 7-8, and how does having this treasure give us confidence?
2. How does the picture of the Christian life in verses 7-12 surprise or challenge you? How does it give you hope?
3. As Christians suffer, what perspective do these verses say they should maintain? Is it difficult for you to cultivate and maintain this attitude? Why?
4. How can our Gospel Community encourage one another to remember the gospel, proclaim Christ, and suffer with hope?
5. How have you seen the Spirit renew you (verse 16) in the midst of the busyness and weariness of your day to day life?
6. In what ways have you been looking “to the things that are seen” for comfort this week?
7. Based on verse 18, how do we maintain perspective of the things “unseen” when what we see in front of us is difficult and hard? Where do you need to hear that encouragement today?

Week of  
**11/10**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-10**

# Chapter 5:1-10

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1. How can the truth that God has promised us eternal, resurrected bodies encourage us as we endure suffering in our current, mortal bodies?
2. If we were to truly look forward to our “house not made with hands,” how would it affect our daily lives here?
3. Verse 5 says the Holy Spirit is our “guarantee”. What does Ephesians 1:13-14 tell us about this “guarantee” for believers? Why is it important for Paul to remind the church of this truth?
4. What reaction does Paul say we should have to the reality of death in verse 6? Do you feel that you are regularly confident in God’s eternal purpose for you?
5. What is the difference between giving an account to the Lord for our sins and being condemned for our sins (Romans 8:1)? How is this reality in verse 10 a strong motivation for us to live a godly life?
6. One of the major themes of this passage is that for the believer, this earth is not our home. Since we know everything on earth is temporary, why is it still so difficult to allow God to be in control of our family, time and/or money?
7. For you personally, what has been the hardest to give control of to God?

Week of

**11/17**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21**

# Chapter 5:11-21

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1. Verses 9-21 is the greatest series of verses in the Bible on motivations for evangelism. Go through these verses and pull out ideas from each part saying “I should evangelize because....” Which one of these sticks out to you or is most impactful to you?
2. What does verse 17 teach us about the nature of a new believer? What is the significance of the word “creation” in terms of the power of God on a person’s life?
3. Verse 17 says that if someone is in Christ, the old has passed away and the new has come. So why don’t old habits and sin patterns disappear immediately? What truth would you share with a believer who is struggling to live for Christ?
4. What does it mean that God has given to us the “ministry of reconciliation?” What does this consist of? How is this a lifelong responsibility for every christian?
5. In what sense did Jesus “become sin” on our behalf? In what sense do we “become righteousness”? Why was this necessary for reconciliation to occur?