

IN FOCUS

2 CORINTHIANS

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

1. **BELONG** – This section isn't filler but an intentional time to slow down and assess how people are doing in their personal and spiritual lives. Feel free to change the questions, but the point is to truly sit in this moment to allow time and space for encouraging spiritual connection.
 - A. What was the most trouble or biggest predicament you found yourself in when you were a child?
 - B. Who or what helped you out of that situation?

2. **Discover** – Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 together in your group and discuss the DBS questions below. Remember, this is meant to be a dialogue, not a monologue. Being a Life Group leader doesn't mean you have to be a subject matter expert on the Bible. It simply means that you are the lead learner. This section is all about discovering the Word together.
 - A. How would you summarize the primary theme of this section of Scripture to someone who hasn't read it before?
 - B. What encouragement do you find in the passage? What's challenging or uncomfortable?
 - C. What truth(s) does this passage teach us about the character of **God**?
 - Can you think of any other passages in Scripture that support this truth?
 - D. What truth(s) does this passage teach us about the character of **mankind**?
 - Can you think of any other passages in Scripture that support this truth?
 - E. How does Paul's struggle in verses 7-11 demonstrate God's power and reflect the life of Jesus?
 - F. Which truths about God keep Paul going despite the hardships he is experiencing? Why does Paul make the distinction between the "outer" and "inner" self?

3. **GO** – Take time applying the text. Once we hear truth, we are called to live it out. If our groups just sit and talk about information, they won't experience transformation. This section is about self-reflection and helping one another be accountable to live out what we're learning.
 - A. How does this section of 2 Corinthians align or differ from our common ideas of "success"? In what ways does it challenge your own expectations or understanding of past, present, or future struggles?
 - B. What truths encourage you most in difficult situations and what reminds you of them?
 - C. Are there specific passages that bring you comfort during times of distress? What are those for you and what Biblical truth do they typically remind you of?
 - D. As believers, how do we "fix our eyes" on the unseen rather than what is most imminently visible to us? How might this bring hope?

4. **PRAYER** – Petition the Lord together as you close out your group time. Under the BELONG section, we focused our prayers on one another. However, this PRAYER section is to be a more outward-focused prayer time.
 - A. Pray for God's perspective in the context of our difficulties. Ask Him to give us eyes to see what is eternal and most important.
 - B. Pray for your group to be a source of comfort and encouragement to those around you who are experiencing hardship.