

IN FOCUS

2 CORINTHIANS

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 11:1-5

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. Have you ever had to defend your beliefs or convictions in the face of opposition or criticism?
 - B. How did you handle it, and what did you learn from the experience?

2. **DISCOVER** – Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-5 together in your group and discuss the 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?
 - 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 use irony and sarcasm in this passage to convey his message to the Corinthian church?
 - F. What does this passage reveal about the nature of spiritual authority and the importance of discernment in evaluating those who claim to speak for God?

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. What are ways we can remain vigilant against false teaching and deception, both in our personal lives and in our broader efforts to serve and minister to others?
 - B. How are we currently called within our own context to emulate Paul's example of sacrificial service and commitment to the gospel message, even in the face of hardship and persecution?
 - C. In what ways can we apply the principles of discernment and skepticism to our own lives and interactions with those who claim to speak for God?

4. **PRAYER** – Petition the Lord together as you close out your group time.
 - A. Pray for those who are suffering persecution or opposition for the sake of the gospel, that they may be strengthened and encouraged in their faith.
 - B. Ask God for a greater understanding of the true nature of spiritual authority and for the humility and grace to serve within these roles with integrity and effectiveness.