

Week of November 1: 2 Corinthians 4:1-16

Seeing Jesus:

Encountering Him in the Epistles



Introduction

This week we will use the Lightbulb method, sometimes known as the Swedish method, of Bible study again. This way of engaging with the text encourages being attentive to what God is saying to us. It is a style of group study that generally requires less direction/preparation from the small group leader, so can be a helpful way of doing a small group study.

Note: Bring printed copies of the chart below for people to fill in as they read.

Study

Step 1: Read through 2 Corinthians 4:1-16 (Individually or out loud if you prefer)

1 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. **2** Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. **3** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. **4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **5** For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. **8** We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; **9** persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. **10** We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in

our body. **11** For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. **12** So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, **14** because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. **15** All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

Step 2: Allow 10-15 minutes for each person to go over the passage a few times on their own, while being on the lookout for the following and drawing the symbol (lightbulb, arrow, etc) beside the verse it applies to.



Something that 'shines' to you from the passage and draws your attention.



Anything hard to understand, any questions?



How does this text relate to your personal life? Do you see any application?



What would you like to share with someone else? Who will benefit from hearing what you've seen in the Bible today?

Step 3: Discussion - Have four rounds of discussion and in each round have group members share what they notes by their symbol.



1) In the first round, each person gets to share one of their 'light bulbs' with the group. It's always interesting to discover what has impacted different people.



2) In the second round, share one of the questions raised by the passage. When sharing your question, feel free to propose an approach to answering it, or you can interact with it as a group. Some of these questions may be answered in the sermon on Sunday as well.



3) In this round, each person gets to share one of their personal applications, or if this Scripture spoke to them in a particular way today.



4) In the final round, share if there is a word of truth or encouragement you are taking away from the passage today? Who would you like to pass it on to either in person or in prayer?

Prayer

Break into small groups and take time praying specifically out of this passage.

Pray for each other around the application that God has pointed out to you.

Prayer for any people the God has brought to mind as needing encouragement or truth from this text.