



## Icebreaker

If you could instantly be a pro at one thing that nobody here knows you're interested in, what would it be?

## Daily Devotions

Day 1: Explore It

Read 2 Corinthians 10:1–18.

1. According to verses 1 and 10, what specific accusations were being made against Paul regarding his personal presence versus the tone of his letters?
2. In verse 4, what does Paul say about the "weapons of our warfare," and what is their primary purpose?
3. According to verse 5, what three things are being destroyed or taken captive in this spiritual conflict?
4. In verse 12, how does Paul describe those who "measure themselves by themselves"?
5. According to verse 8, for what specific purpose did the Lord give Paul his authority?
6. Based on verse 18, whose commendation ultimately determines if a person is "approved"?



## Day 3 — Today's Theme: Looking Beneath the Surface

### Read 2 Corinthians 10:7–11.

Back in elementary school, my friend found two "diamond" rings in a field. I asked for one. He looked at them both and decided to keep the huge, flashy one and gave me the small, plain one. We both thought he got the better deal, until another student stepped in.

It turned out the "giant diamond" was just a plastic toy from a 25-cent vending machine. The small, boring-looking ring was the real diamond. The moment my friend realized the smaller one had the actual value, he grabbed it back.

That is a lot like the way people often judge others in middle school and high school. We tend to look at the brands someone wears, how many followers they have, or how loud and impressive their personality seems. But those things are only surface level. They may stand out, but they do not tell you what someone is really worth.

That is why people say not to judge a book by its cover. A plain cover can hide an incredible story, while a flashy cover can cover up a complete mess. In the same way, someone who does not look impressive on the outside may have real character, depth and value, while someone who gets all the attention may not be nearly as solid as they appear.

The Apostle Paul dealt with this exact issue. People in the city of Corinth were judging him based on his "vibe" rather than his heart. His critics basically said:

*"Paul's letters sound tough and powerful, but when you meet him in person, he's unimpressive and a weak speaker."*

They were calling him two-faced, acting tough over email (or letters) but shrinking back in person. They thought because he didn't look like a super-leader, he didn't have any real authority.

Paul's response was simple: Stop looking at the surface. He reminded them that his authority didn't come from a flashy suit or a loud voice; it came from God. He wasn't there to flex his power to look cool; he was there to build people up. He warned his critics that when he showed up in person, his actions would be just as powerful as his words. He was a "real diamond," even if he didn't look like the "plastic" leaders they were used to.

**10. In the story, the big "diamond" was actually cheap plastic. In your world (school, sports, social media), what is something that looks big and impressive but is actually pretty shallow or fake?**

**11. Paul didn't have a polished or charismatic personality, so people thought he wasn't a leader. Have you ever met someone who didn't seem cool at first, but once they started talking, you realized they were actually the smartest or strongest person in the room?**

**12. If we stopped judging people by their "outer shell" (clothes, looks, popularity), how would our school or our youth group look different by next week?**

**13. This week, look for one "real diamond," a person who is usually ignored or judged by their appearance. What is one way you can show them that you see their actual value?**

## Day 4 — Today's Theme: Gospel Advancing

### Read 2 Corinthians 10:12–16.

Are you a Gospel Advancing student? If you have placed your trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, then you are not to keep this great news to yourself, but you are to share it with anyone and everyone.

We see students doing this every day in ordinary but powerful ways. Advancing the gospel is not just something that happens from a stage. It happens in the one-on-one conversation, when a student sits across from a friend at lunch and talks honestly about Jesus. It happens in the classroom, when a student thoughtfully shares their perspective on God during a meaningful discussion. It happens in the invite, when a student uses their campus ministry or club to open the door for others to come to an outreach event or simply invites a friend to youth group on Wednesday night.

The Apostle Paul had a specific goal for the church in Corinth. He hoped that as their faith grew stronger, the Gospel would naturally spread way beyond their city.

It should work the same way for us. As you grow deeper in your walk with Jesus, your faith shouldn't just stay inside you, it should overflow. Think of it like a cup being filled under a faucet: eventually, the water has to go somewhere. Your influence and the message of Jesus should naturally spill over into the lives of the people around you.

**14. If your faith is like a cup under a faucet, what are the things in your life that "fill your cup" (prayer, worship, hanging with Christian friends)? What are the things that keep your cup from filling and prevent your faith from overflowing to others?**

**15. Does sharing your faith feel more like an "overflow" (natural and easy) or a "chore" (something you feel forced to do)? Why do you think it feels that way?**

**16. Out of the three methods mentioned, The 1-on-1, The Classroom, or The Big Invite, which one feels the most natural for your personality? Which one feels the scariest?**

**17. What is the Gospel? Who is one person God is calling you to share the Gospel with this week?**

