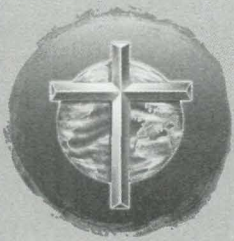


Study Guide





LifeLight

LifeLight Expands

Available NOW!

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| * The Bible: An Overview | Isaiah, Pt. 1 | Acts, Pt. 1 | **Ephesians/1 & 2 Thessa-
lonians |
| Genesis, Pt. 1 | Isaiah, Pt. 2 | Acts, Pt. 2 | Hebrews |
| Genesis, Pt. 2 | **Minor Prophets | Romans, Pt. 1 | * James/Jude |
| Exodus, Pt. 1 | **Daniel | Romans, Pt. 2 | * 1 & 2 Peter |
| Exodus, Pt. 2 | Matthew, Pt. 1 | 1 Corinthians | 1 John |
| * Joshua | Matthew, Pt. 2 | 2 Corinthians | * Revelation |
| **Life of David | **Luke, Pt. 1 | * Timothy/Titus/Philemon | |
| **Selected Psalms | **Luke, Pt. 2 | **Galatians/Philippians/
Colossians | |
| * Proverbs | John, Pt. 1 | | |
| | John, Pt. 2 | | |

LifeLight Foundations

- * Prophecy * Bible Feasts * Miracles * Law & Gospel * Baptism

* all-new LifeLight material ** does not include the Enrichment Magazine

LifeLight Release Schedule

2007 RELEASES

- * LifeLight—Judges July
* LifeLight Foundations—Worship October

2008 RELEASES

- LifeLight—Luke, Pt. 1 January
LifeLight—Luke, Pt. 2 April
* LifeLight—Ruth/Esther July
* LifeLight Foundations—Triune God October

2009 RELEASES

- LifeLight—Minor Prophets January
LifeLight—Daniel April
* LifeLight—Mark July
* LifeLight Foundations—Ministry October

2010 RELEASES

- LifeLight—Life of David January
LifeLight—Selected Psalms April
* LifeLight—Ecclesiastes/Song of Songs July
* LifeLight Foundations—Creation/
New Creation October

Other Future Studies:

- 1, 2, & 3 John
Job
Wilderness Wanderings (Lev., Num. & Deut.)
Ezra, Nehemiah

This helpful resource is also available:

Intro Kit

God's Comfort in Affliction

Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1
Use enrichment magazine p. 2.

2 Corinthians 1:1–11

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

Hymn

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary, rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
(*Lutheran Worship* [LW] 279; *Lutheran Service Book* [LSB] 524; *The Lutheran Hymnal* [TLH] 364; *Lutheran Book of Worship* [LBW] 345; *Christian Worship* [CW] 358; *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* [ELH] 155; *Every Voice a Song* [EVaS] disk 6, track 23)

Prayer

Father of compassion and God of all comfort, we especially bring before You all those who this day suffer for their faith, asking that You will comfort them with Your Holy Word, with Your presence, and with the ministry of fellow believers. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 1

Day 1 • Read 2 Corinthians 1:1

1. If you participated in the LifeLight course on 1 Corinthians, you know that Paul addressed a number of problems in the congregation at Corinth. Refer to the following passages from 1 Corinthians and list some of the problems that needed to be resolved:

1 Corinthians 1:10

1 Corinthians 5:1

1 Corinthians 6:1

1 Corinthians 6:16

1 Corinthians 8:4

1 Corinthians 11:20–21

1 Corinthians 15:12

As we get into 2 Corinthians we will learn that a few of the problems addressed in 1 Corinthians still remained and that other problems had arisen in the meantime.

2. Think about times when problems and disagreements are likely to arise in your own congregation. What do you think you might be able to do to help when such problems arise? If you recall from your study of 1 Corinthians how Paul approached the

problems in Corinth, think about how Paul's example might guide you.

3. In verse 1, note that Paul includes Timothy in his salutation. Using the following passages, trace a bit of Timothy's background.

a. Acts 16:1-3

b. 2 Timothy 1:5

c. 2 Timothy 3:15

d. 1 Timothy 1:1-3

.....
Day 2 • Read 2 Corinthians 1:2-3

4. Verse 2 includes a blessing that was very typical of blessings Paul used to begin his letters. (You may verify this by reading the way that Paul's other letters begin.)

a. Remembering that God's grace is His undeserved forgiveness why would God's grace have been especially meaningful for the Corinthians? (Think about the problems you reviewed in question 1.)

b. In the light of the tough subjects of 1 Corinthians, why would the peace of God be especially needed by the Corinthians?

5. "Grace" and "peace" were common words of greeting among both Greeks and Jews. But these are more than words when they are linked to the Lord Jesus. Reflect on times when the grace of God became more than a word for you. Think also of situations when the peace of God became more powerful for you in a time of need. If you are comfortable doing so, be prepared to share something about these times with the others in your discussion group.

6. In verse 3, both "compassion" and "all comfort" are linked to God the Father. The following incidents referenced here detail some circumstances in which the Lord showed compassion. What does each say to you about what God's compassion is like?

a. Exodus 3:7-10

b. Jonah 3:6-10

c. Matthew 9:35-38

7. The following passages tell about the Lord's comfort and how He provided it in sorrowful circumstances. What does each say to you about what God's comfort is like?

a. Isaiah 40:1-2

b. John 14:1-4

c. John 20:11-16

The Ministry of Divine Triumph

Distribute before session 2 for use in session 2
Use enrichment magazine p. 5.

2 Corinthians 1:12–2:17

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

Hymn

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help or strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?

Christian Ludwig Sheidt, 1709–61; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt.
(*Lutheran Worship* [LW] 351; *Lutheran Service Book* [LSB] 566; *The Lutheran Hymnal* [TLH] 373; *Christian Worship* [CW] 384; *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* [ELH] 226; *Every Voice a Song* [EVaS] disk 7, track 21)

Prayer

Gracious and merciful Lord, we give You thanks that it is Your will that we be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. When our sins overwhelm us and we are tempted to give up all hope, show us the cross. Help us see our Savior's nail-pierced hands and feet. Remind us that His cross has overcome all sin. Set us free, O Lord, joyfully to sing Your praises. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 2

Day 1 • Read 2 Corinthians 1:12–19

1a. About what does Paul say he "boasts" in 1:12?

b. What would people of the world think of such "boasting"? How much would it impress them?

2a. Why are "simplicity" and "godly sincerity" so important for anyone who represents God (v. 12)?

b. What key words in verse 12 show that Paul, in speaking of his "simplicity" and "godly sincerity," is not being self-righteous?

3. At first blush, verses 13–14 may appear to be a put-down of Paul's readers—as though he had to simplify his writings in order for them to understand. What Paul earnestly tried to do was to communicate clearly. What was the purpose of Paul's clear communication, according to verse 14? Explain.

4. Verses 15–17 contain some assumptions and background that was known to the Corinthians but is not known to us. What double blessing did Paul have in mind in verses 15–16?

5. Because Paul had to change his plans—perhaps visiting the Corinthians on the way *from* Macedonia but not on his way *to* Macedonia, what accusations were made by Paul's detractors (v. 17)?

6. Note how Paul takes the complaint implied in the second question in verse 17 and turns it into an important statement about Jesus. Paul declares that God's faithfulness rings true resoundingly, without any hedging, in Jesus Christ (v. 18). What resounding, definite Gospel affirmation do you find in the following passages?

a. John 3:17

b. Romans 5:8

c. John 10:27–28

a. Compare Romans 8:32 and restate the truth from both that text and 2 Corinthians 2:20 in your own words.

b. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* When have you seen God keep His promises to you in Christ? With what kind of "Amen" did you bring glory to Him in response?

8. How might 2 Corinthians 1:21–22 comfort someone in a difficult trial or temptation who was worried about whether or not he or she could make it through?

.....

Day 3 • Read 2 Corinthians 1:23–2:4

9. In verse 23, Paul says he avoided a return visit to Corinth to spare them. Under what circumstances do you think it is best to avoid a disagreeable contact for a time, and under what circumstances do you think that a contact ought not to be avoided, even though disagreeable? Explain.

.....

Day 2 • Read 2 Corinthians 1:20–22

7. Paul says that all of God's promises are "Yes in [Christ]."