



## ENGAGE

Break the Ice: (The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. You may even have a better question. Once you feel that the group is engaged, move on to the "Inspire" section.)

- Did you feel more like a Styrofoam cup or a crystal goblet this past week? Why?
- What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God's Spirit to speak to your group through His Word.

## INSPIRE

(Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-16.

1. When you are discouraged, feel overwhelmed or inadequate, what thought, song, or verse encourages you?
2. How does the way Paul *received* his ministry (vv.1,6) make a difference in how he *conducts* that ministry (vv.2-5)?
3. A common mistake Christians make is to think that they have to produce fruit. What do you learn from Paul about sharing your faith (vv1-6)? About the content of that faith? About the lack of response?
4. Read verses 7-11. How do our struggles display God's power?
5. In your life right now, which do you feel is more at work: "Death is at work" or "Life is at work" (v.12)?

Note: Verse 10 summarizes the four points of the paradox (vv.8-9). In the phrase "the death of Jesus," Paul sums up his experience of being "hard pressed," "perplexed," "persecuted," and "struck down" during his ministry. On the other hand, the phrase "the life of Jesus" expresses the Lord's saving him from being "crushed," "in despair," "abandoned," and "destroyed."

6. When you are hesitant in serving the Lord, is it due more to external resistance or internal feelings of inadequacy?
7. What truths keep you going in spite of your hardships and feelings of guilt, brokenness, and inadequacies?
8. Sunday morning, we shared a video of FCC members giving their testimony of how God was using them through personal hardship. For those who saw the video, how did God speak to you through what they shared?



# EQUIP

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success. Set aside 15-20 minutes at the end of your study to go over this section.)

The summary of this teaching series is that God uses guilty, ordinary, broken, inadequate people to share the hope of Christ to a guilty, ordinary, broken, inadequate world.

What has been your big take-a-way in this teaching series?

Pray that God will use us (cracked pots) for his purpose and glory.

Equip Your Mind:

“We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant.” (2 Cor 3:4-6a, NLT)

Sermon Outline / Notes:

(The following is the sermon outline. This is to be used as a refresher or to help those facilitators who missed the Sunday morning message.)

“Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us.” ~ 2 Corinthians 4:7 (CSB)

### **Identify the Origin of your Feelings of Inadequacy.**

1. Our past failures hold us back.
2. We don't take God at His Word.
3. We fail to accept the sovereignty of God.

### **Moving Beyond Feelings of Inadequacy**

1. Admit your feelings of inadequacy to God.
2. Seek God's healing.
3. Seek affirmation from mature Christians.
4. Spend enough time in preparation.
5. Step out in faith.

God uses guilty, ordinary, broken, inadequate people to share the hope of Christ to a guilty, ordinary, broken, inadequate world.