



Sermon Discussion Guide

11.9.25 Message | Tyler Myers | 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Note: This discussion guide is designed for both group and individual use. While some questions are written with group discussion in mind, individuals can still use this guide for personal reflection, journaling, and prayer. Simply adapt any group-oriented questions for your own study time.

LOOK BACK - Relationship & Accountability (~15% of your discussion)

→ Share Life

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What has been causing you stress lately?
- Who in your community needs help right now, and how can our group come alongside them?

→ Follow Up From Last Time

- Retell what we discussed in our previous gathering.
- What actions did you take in response?
- Did you share anything from our last study with someone else? How did they respond?

LOOK UP – Scripture & Discovery (~60%)

→ Read (twice, in different translations)

- Read the text you are studying this week in the ESV out loud.
- Read the text you are studying this week a second time in an alternate version.

→ Retell

- In your own words, summarize what the author is saying in this passage.

Key Scripture (ESV)

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Resiliency is seen in the light, but it's a spiritual muscle developed in the dark.
 - Resiliency requires dependence on God, and dependence on God isn't weakness—it's worship.
 - There is no testimony without a test; our hardships often become someone else's opportunity for faith.
 - Thankless work becomes meaningful when we see it through a thankful heart.
 - We do not lose heart, because God is renewing us day by day, even in the unseen struggles.
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CONVERSATION STARTER

What's something you've had to "muscle through" lately—big or small—and what did it teach you about yourself or your faith?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE (Does your group understand the message)

- What did you like about this passage?
- Did you find anything difficult about this passage?
- What does this passage teach about God?
- What does this passage teach about people?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

1. What does Paul mean when he says we are "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God"? How might this change how you view your role in God's Kingdom? (1 Corinthians 4:1–2)
 2. Paul warns against pride and comparison within the church. How do you guard your heart from becoming "puffed up" or competitive in faith or ministry? (1 Corinthians 4:6–7)
 3. Paul says that God "will bring to light what is hidden in darkness." How does this truth both comfort and challenge you? (1 Corinthians 4:5)
 4. How does Paul's description of suffering ("we are fools for Christ...") shift your perspective on what it means to follow Jesus in a culture of comfort? (1 Corinthians 4:9–13)
 5. Paul says the Kingdom of God is not about talk but power. What would it look like for your faith to be marked by power, not just words? (1 Corinthians 4:20)
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LOOK FORWARD – Application & Mission (~25%)

→ Inside Me

- According to this sermon, what am I doing well in keeping Christ at the center of my life?
- What needs to change so that Jesus—not my preferences—remains the center?

→ Who Else?

- Who in my life needs to hear about Jesus as the true center of all things?
- How can I share this truth or invite them to explore it with me this week?

→ Pray Together

- Pray for a clear vision to see Jesus as central in all things.
- Pray for strength to resist false "gospels" that compete for our allegiance.
- Pray for courage to share Christ's supremacy with others and live as his witnesses.