

VIEWING GUIDE

A situation or circumstance in which you feel weak or helpless:

The Main Characters of 2 Corinthians

- 1. Paul
- 2. Timothy
- 3. The Corinthian church
- 4. False apostles

Paul and the Corinthian Church in Six Acts

Act One: The church is planted.

Act Two: Paul writes a lost letter.

Act Three: Paul writes 1 Corinthians.

Act Four: Paul makes a painful visit.

Act Five: Paul writes the “severe letter.”

Act Six: Paul writes 2 Corinthians.

Themes of 2 Corinthians

- 1. The gospel of Jesus Christ has practical, doctrinal, and relational implications for His church.
- 2. Christ’s generosity fuels and motivates our own generosity toward others.
- 3. God’s power and His glory are best displayed in our weakness.

GROUP GUIDE

GATHER

- 1. Pair up with another woman and choose a question from the list below to discuss together. After a few minutes, pair up with someone else and choose a different question to discuss.
 - What is the best meal you’ve ever eaten?
 - On what topic could you give a twenty-minute presentation without advance notice or preparation?
 - What skill do you think everyone should have?
 - What’s your favorite sport to watch?
 - What’s your idea of fun?
- 2. Why did you choose to do this study and what do you hope to get out of our time together over the next eight weeks?
- 3. What is your confidence level when it comes to in-depth Bible study? Share with the group how they can best help or support you as you study.

WATCH AND DISCUSS

After the Session One video teaching, discuss the following questions.

- 1. Which part of the video teaching did you find most interesting and helpful? Why?
- 2. Which of the themes mentioned in the video teaching are you most intrigued to learn more about and why? (See bottom of page 10.)
- 3. In the teaching video, you were tasked with jotting down a circumstance you’re currently facing that makes you feel weak or helpless. Consider sharing what you wrote and how you want God to work in your life over the next eight weeks.

To access the video teaching sessions, use the instructions in the back of your Bible study book.



VIEWING GUIDE

Seeking comfort is a natural human response to difficulty.

1. God comforts us with His presence and His power in our afflictions.

To comfort is to alleviate or lessen grief, sorrow, or disappointment.

Affliction: External distress or an inward pressure resulting from difficult circumstances.

Reasons God allows afflictions in our lives:

1. Our afflictions are a means of sharing in the sufferings of Christ (v. 5).
2. It teaches us to trust and depend upon God in ways that we rarely learn apart from suffering (v. 9).
3. We are given comfort so we can share that comfort with others (vv.4-6).

2. God comforts us through one another in our afflictions.

Ways you can respond to others in their suffering:

1. Listen well.
2. Acknowledge the difficulty of the situation.
3. Remind them of the promises of God.
4. Be present with them.
5. Pray for them and with them.

GROUP GUIDE

Use the following questions to discuss the Session Two video teaching with your Bible study group. A more extensive leader guide is available as a free download at lifeway.com/morethanenough.

What are some things outside of God and His Word that you have turned to for comfort?

Christine said that God's comfort lessens the blow of affliction and gives us power to face our difficulties. How have you experienced that in the past and/or are experiencing it now?

When you look back at the suffering and affliction you've experienced, how has God used that for your good and His glory?

Christine talked about the pattern of "God > me > we > God" in explaining how we experience and provide comfort. What did she mean?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:4. What did Paul mean when he said we comfort others through the comfort we receive from God? How have you experienced this in your life?

Review the five ways we can help comfort others in their suffering. Share an example of how you have both received and given comfort in one or two of these ways.

What is your main takeaway from this video teaching and why?



VIEWING GUIDE

1. We're called to sacrificial service.

We give all for the one who gave all. This is the service we're called to.

The intersection of where our affliction and God's comfort meet quite often turns out to become our sacrificial service.

2. Adequacy for service comes from God.

Our confidence is the never changing pleasure of God in us because of Christ.

We don't have to make ourselves strong or overcome weakness in order to be used by God. We only have to be faithful deliverers of the message.

GROUP GUIDE

Use the following questions to discuss the Session Three video teaching with your Bible study group. A more extensive leader guide is available as a free download at lifeway.com/morethanenough.

Christine said serving others is rarely easy. Why would she say that? Do you agree? Explain.

Why is our internal motivation to serve so integral to our service?

Why is it important to our sacrificial service that we remember we don't control outcomes?

Christine said the intersection of where our affliction and God's comfort meet quite often turns out to become our sacrificial service. What did she mean? How have you seen that be the case in your life?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:5-6. When was a time you tried to serve God out of your own competency and strength? What was the result?

Christine talked about getting the "but what abouts" when called to go and plant a church. What are your go-to "but what abouts" when God is calling you to ministry or service?

What does it look like practically to rest in the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's work through you? What's keeping you from doing that?

What is your main takeaway from this video teaching and why?



VIEWING GUIDE

The path of life is rocky, but a Christian who looks back with faith and who looks forward with faith will remain steadfast.

1. The path of life is rocky.

2. A Christian who looks back with faith and forward with faith will remain steadfast.

How Can We Be Steadfast?

1. Look back at how God has shown His power in the past.
2. Look forward to the kind of deliverance He promises to come.

GROUP GUIDE

Use the following questions to discuss the Session Four video teaching with your Bible study group. A more extensive leader guide is available as a free download at lifeway.com/morethanenough.

Have you ever started something difficult but gave up before you finished? If so, share the experience.

What does it mean to be steadfast? Would you characterize yourself as steadfast? Why or why not?

In what ways has your path of life been rocky? If so, do you embrace this reality or run from it? Explain.

Christine said that if we run from this reality, we miss out on experiencing the power of God in our lives. Do you agree? If so, how do we miss it?

How does looking back on God's faithfulness in Scripture and in your life help you remain steadfast? Name some ways God has been faithful to you in the past.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. How do we keep our focus on what is unseen rather than what is seen? What makes that hard to do?

How will continuing to look forward help you remain spiritually steadfast?

What is your main takeaway from this video teaching and why?



VIEWING GUIDE

Ambassador: a diplomatic official sent to represent a sovereign or leader on a temporary mission.

Sincerity: holiness, purity, integrity, genuineness, authenticity; living in a way that aligns with the message and demeanor of Jesus.

1. God's ambassadors are sincere in motivations, relationships, and actions.

Three Important Markers for Ambassadors of Christ:

1. Sincerity in motivations.
2. Sincerity in relationships.
3. Sincerity in actions.

2. God calls His ambassadors to increasing sincerity through repentance.

GROUP GUIDE

Use the following questions to discuss the Session Five video teaching with your Bible study group. A more extensive leader guide is available as a free download at lifeway.com/morethanenough.

Christine said that the calling for every Christian is that we represent Christ in the world, and we live a life that aligns with and reflects His message and His demeanor. Would you say that describes your life? If so, how? If not, why not?

As God's ambassadors, we're to be sincere in motivations, relationships, and actions. Which of those three do you struggle to be sincere in the most? Why?

Christine said that when Paul was squeezed by the circumstances of life, what came out of him commended the truth of who God is and what He does. What comes out of you when life circumstances squeeze you?

What are some false teachings you've yoked yourself to in the past? What was the source? How can we stay alert to not fall to these kinds of falsehood?

Does repentance come easy for you? Explain. Share a refreshing moment in your life where repentance put you back on track with the Lord.

What are some ways you are currently pursuing holiness?

What is your main takeaway from this video teaching and why?



VIEWING GUIDE

God’s generosity toward us is the source of and the motivation for our generosity to others.

1. Generosity is an act of grace.

The Macedonians’ Generosity:

1. It was birthed in poverty.
2. It was birthed in suffering.
3. It was marked by eagerness.
4. It was prompted by God.

Anyone who puts their faith in Christ for salvation receives all that belongs to Christ.

So this is God’s grace—our debt is wiped away and we’re given abundant riches in Christ that we could never earn or manufacture for ourselves.

2. Generosity is profitable for both the giver and the receiver.

Twofold Profit for the Giver:

1. The giver gets to see the spiritual harvest benefit other people.
2. The giver gets to profit in the joy of being a part of God’s work.

GROUP GUIDE

Use the following questions to discuss the Session Six video teaching with your Bible study group. A more extensive leader guide is available as a free download at lifeway.com/morethanenough.

Would you say you have a good understanding of grace? Why or why not? How would you explain it to a nonbeliever?

Why is having a good understanding of grace so vital to being a generous person?

What emotions or words do you associate with financial giving and why?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. What are your thoughts about the Macedonian churches when you hear their story? Are you amazed? Convicted? Inspired? How are they an example for all of us in our giving?

Share some moments in your life when God has been overly generous to you.

What does it mean to be a cheerful giver, and would you call yourself one? Why or why not?

We should always give trusting there will be spiritual harvest, but sometimes we’re unable to physically see the results. However, there are times we can see tangible results of how God used our sacrificial giving for His purpose. Share some of those experiences.

What is your main takeaway from this video teaching and why?

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VIEWING GUIDE

Who or what we want to be associated with is often an indicator of what we most value, and what we most value drives us. It's what we boast in.

1. A fool boasts in and relies on her own strength.

Judaizers: Jews who professed to be Christians that taught that faith in Christ was not enough to save you. Instead, one must also keep the law in order to be right with God.

Four Things the False Teachers Boasted In:

1. They boasted in their strong physical presence and their speaking skills.
2. They boasted in their associations.
3. They boasted in self-commendation.
4. They boasted about their spiritual accomplishments.

2. A wise woman boasts in and relies on God's strength.

When we rely on God to come through for us is when we most clearly see and experience the power of God holding us, sustaining us, and helping us endure.

Whether God removes our thorn or whether God does not remove it, the truth is the same, God will be more than enough for us in it.

A fool boasts in and relies on her own strength, but a wise woman boasts in and relies on God's strength because it's in our weakness that God shows himself strong.

GROUP GUIDE

Use the following questions to discuss the Session Seven video teaching with your Bible study group. A more extensive leader guide is available as a free download at lifeway.com/morethanenough.

What would you say are the characteristics of a boastful person?

What causes us to boast? What do you find yourself boasting about the most, even if it's just in your own head?

Why is a boastful spirit so detrimental to our walk with and witness for Christ?

Some of the Corinthians were drawn to the boastful false teachers. Why are we sometimes drawn to boastful people?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. How do Paul's words in this passage sit with you? Are you able to make that same confession? If so, how? If not, what holds you back?

What makes it so difficult to admit weakness?

How has weakness and suffering been a catalyst to draw you closer to the Lord?

What is your main takeaway from this video teaching and why?



VIEWING GUIDE

1. Paul invites the Corinthians to examine his heart.

Paul said the Corinthians should examine his:

Motives

Affections

Fears

How We Can Contribute to a Healthy Church Culture:

1. Be a “there you are” person rather than a “here I am” person.
2. Seek to build others up.
3. Be more concerned with the spiritual welfare of others than in being proven right.

Confrontation isn’t easy and it’s something we should do carefully and prayerfully.
If we’re eager to do it, we’re probably doing it wrong.

2. Paul exhorts the Corinthians to examine their own hearts.

Signs of Spiritual Maturity:

1. Mature Christians rejoice.
2. Mature Christians encourage or comfort one another.
3. Mature Christians are of the same mind.
4. Mature Christians live in peace.

How We Pursue Sanctification:

1. We cling closely to God.
2. We cling closely to God’s Word.

GROUP GUIDE

Use the following questions to discuss the Session Eight video teaching with your Bible study group. A more extensive leader guide is available as a free download at lifeway.com/morethanenough.

Have you ever experienced church hurt? Without sharing names and details, what happened and how did you handle it?

Summarize how Paul dealt with the hurt he’d received from the Corinthians and how you can apply that to your hurtful situations.

Christine said Paul was a “there you are” person rather than a “here I am” person. Explain what she meant and share whether you consider yourself a “there you are” person. If so, what is the evidence? If not, why not?

How do you respond to Paul’s command in 13:5 to “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith”? Do you see it as a healthy request? An offensive challenge? A frightening appeal?

Read 2 Corinthians 13:11. What are the signs of maturity Paul shared and how do you measure up? Which of these do you struggle with most and why? How are you seeing spiritual maturity take place in your life?

What are the ways you are clinging closely to God and His Word?

What is your main takeaway from this video teaching and why?

What is your main takeaway from this study of 2 Corinthians? What steps are you going to take to apply what you’ve learned?

