



JARS  
OF  
CLAY

# JARS OF CLAY

SEPTEMBER 1-DECEMBER 7, 2025

Paul opens his heart like never before in this rich and deeply personal letter. Written to a church struggling with division, doubt, and competing voices, Paul makes himself vulnerable, revealing his deep love for the church, and his unwavering confidence in God's power made perfect in weakness. While the Corinthian church largely dismisses Paul's authority, he defends his ministry with humility and a bold trust in God's Spirit. And while our world often defines 'success' through strength and achievement, wealth and influence, Paul emphasizes the humility of King Jesus, and particularly His Cross.

The paradox of the Gospel is that true strength comes through surrender; it comes through self-emptying love, not self-promoting arrogance. Do you not feel the world's tempting lure to achieve, and then to boast about who you are and what you can do? I think we all, at some level, wrestle with inadequacy, disappointment, and the pressure to prove ourselves. Sometimes it seems to work. But eventually, inevitably, we come up short. And then what? We wonder: can God really use my brokenness for His glory? Paul's answer is an emphatic 'Yes!' If we are willing to be broken vessels displaying God's glory from within, and not 'all-put-together' facades of our own glory. Welcome to Jars of Clay. Welcome to 2 Corinthians.

# HOW TO USE YOUR JOURNAL

**1. Weekly Format:** Mondays in this journal are intended to be “Overview” days and Fridays are “Wrap-Up” days. If you only have time to do the journal once a week, do the Monday overview. If you can only do two days, do the questions for Monday and Friday. This will give you the most helpful big picture for the week.

**2. Questions:** Each day, read the assigned passage slowly, then reflect thoughtfully on the questions. In addition to the questions that help you think about the passage itself, we have included additional ways to pause and study the day’s passage:

- **Reflect** questions ask you to think about how the passage applies to your life – past, present, and future.
- **Dig Deeper** questions have you look at a related passage somewhere else in Scripture.
- **Practice** questions ask you to apply the passage by doing some action.
- **Listen** to the “Song of the Week” in the Tuesday *Life at Hope* email that relates to the Scripture theme for the week. We recommend listening to that song on Wednesday as part of your time with God.

**3. Group Discussion Questions:** If you’re not already in a Community Group that discusses the weekly themes and sermons, we encourage you to join one or form your own. (Reach out to Pastor Bill at [bcraig@hopemason.org](mailto:bcraig@hopemason.org) for ideas.)

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# 2 CORINTHIANS 1

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

### REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

### CHALLENGE

Over the course of the week, read or listen to the entire book of 2 Corinthians. (It will take about 40 minutes.)

# 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

What are the elements of the Christian life Paul mentions in verses 3-7? How have you been experiencing some of these things recently?

What does Paul say about God in these verses? How have you experienced this in your own life?

REFLECT

What is one way God has brought comfort to you recently? Write it below, then ask God if there's someone He'd like you to share that comfort with, and if so, share it.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

What does Paul say about his affliction in verses 7-11? What is meaningful to you about that? What questions do you have?

What does Paul say about prayer in verse 11? If these things are true, why do you ask for prayer so infrequently? Ask God to speak to you about this and write any thoughts that come.

REFLECT

Imagine that someone said to you, “God never gives us more than we can handle.” Write a brief response to them, based in part on these verses.

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-24

What did Paul say about his behavior and heart toward them? What strikes you about that?

What does Paul say is his desire for them in these verses? Do you share those desires for your Hope family? Write any thoughts that come.

REFLECT

Verse 20 feels monumental. Put what Paul is saying here in your own words. Write a brief prayer of response.



# 2 CORINTHIANS 1

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 1

## SERMON NOTES

# 2 CORINTHIANS 2

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

CHALLENGE

Today, or one day this week, watch the 9-minute Bible Project overview of 2 Corinthians, found here: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/2-corinthians/>



# 2 CORINTHIANS 2:1-11

What does Paul say about his pain and the Corinthians' pain in these verses? Who seems to be causing the pain? Who is on the receiving end?

What does Paul say about his motive in causing them pain? How have you been on the receiving end of something like this? How have you been on the giving end? Ask God and write any thoughts that come.

REFLECT

Read verse 4 again. Picture this. What does it teach us about Paul? Is there anything here you want to be more true of your own heart and life? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 2:1-11

List all the ways Paul says the Corinthians responded and should respond to this “offender” who caused pain. What do we learn here about how we should relate to one another in the Church today?

What does Paul say about Satan in these verses? How might that apply to what he’s been talking about in this passage?

REFLECT

Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? Ask God to show you, and write a brief prayer of response. What is a next step here?

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 2:12-17

Paul says we are the aroma of Christ to three “parties”: God, those who are being saved, and those who are perishing. What does he say about each? How do you feel about that?

What does Paul say about his ministry and his opponents’ ministry in verse 17? What thoughts or desires are stirred in you by this? Write a brief prayer of response.

REFLECT

How would you characterize the “aroma” of your life to God? To other Christians? To those outside the faith? Ask God to speak to you about this and write any thoughts that come.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 2

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 2

## SERMON NOTES



# 2 CORINTHIANS 3

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-6

If you were leading a group and some questioned your legitimacy as a leader, how would you want to defend yourself? How does Paul defend his legitimacy as an apostle in these verses? What strikes you about that?

In Acts 18:1-17, we learn that Paul started the church in Corinth, so why do you think he had to keep defending himself to them? (See also 2 Corinthians 11:1-6 and 13-15.) How must he have felt about that?

REFLECT

How would you feel if someone asked you to lead a group or disciple someone at Hope? In what ways might you feel inadequate? What might be reasons to say yes, based in part on these verses?

# 2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-11

What does Paul say in verses 1-11 about the Old and New Covenants? List below:

Old

New

How do verses 7-11 build on what Paul has been saying in verses 1-6?

DIG DEEPER

Paul references how the Old Covenant came with glory. Read Exodus 34:29-35. Summarize what happened. What strikes you?

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-18

What does Paul say about the veil in these verses? Why is the veil there? What is its impact? How is it removed, and what is the effect of its removal?

Read verse 18 slowly and visualize it as you read. What thoughts and feelings come to mind? How might you grow in “beholding the glory of the Lord” more?

REFLECT

How have you seen the transforming work of God in yourself over the years, changing you to reflect His likeness more and more? In which areas of your life and heart do you long to see more transformation? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 3

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 3

## SERMON NOTES

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-6

What does Paul say about his ministry in verses 1-2? How are people today tempted to fall into the mistakes Paul mentions in those verses? How might you be tempted to fall into those mistakes?

What does Paul say about the gospel in verses 3-6? About unbelievers? About Jesus? About God? What is most meaningful to you? What questions do you have?

DIG DEEPER

Paul references Genesis 1 in these verses. Read Genesis 1:1-5. If you have received Jesus as Lord, God has done that in your heart! Thank Him! Picture God doing this in the heart of someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach.” Write a brief prayer about that.



# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15

In verse 7, what is Paul referring to when he says “treasure” and “jars of clay?” Picture that being the case with you. What is meaningful to you about that, and what questions do you have?

In which ways, if any, can you relate to Paul’s descriptions of himself in verses 8-12? In which ways do you not relate? How do you feel about that?

DIG DEEPER

Read just one experience Paul had with these things in Acts 14:19-22. Many brothers and sisters in Christ around the world are facing things like this today. Write a brief prayer for them.

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15

What do you think Paul means in verses 10-12? What is meaningful to you about that, and what questions do you have?

What does Paul say about the resurrection in verse 14? What part is most exciting to you? How might you carry that joy into your day?

REFLECT

Picture verse 15 happening through your life. Write a brief prayer, asking God to do increasingly more in and through you!

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15

## SERMON NOTES

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-5:10

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

## REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

In verse 16, Paul refers to not losing heart for a second time in the chapter (verse 1). What, in each case, is helping Paul not lose heart? What is tempting you to lose heart today, and how might this be of help to you?

What does Paul say about his affliction in these verses? What is surprising about what he says here, especially considering what he said earlier in verses 8-12? What words would you use to describe your afflictions right now?

PRACTICE

Write out these three verses in your own words. How does this encourage you? Ask God whom He might have you share that with today, then follow through.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-5

Paul seems to be talking about three states of being in these verses: the “tent” of our earthly bodies, being “unclothed” or without a body in heaven, then being “clothed” in our eternal body after Jesus’ return. What does he say about each?

What are your biggest questions about what life will be like in heaven? In New Creation after Jesus returns? Put stars by the most important ones.

REFLECT

List the messages in these verses that could help those who are grieving the death of a loved one who loved Jesus. Ask God if He would have you share with them, then do what’s on your heart.

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-10

How might the truths in this passage give Paul courage (verse 6)? In what ways do you need courage right now, and how might these truths help you?

How could Paul say what he says in verse 8? Do you feel the same? Write an honest prayer about that.

REFLECT

Think through your day yesterday. How did the hope of heaven and living eternally in God's New Creation impact your day? How would you like it to impact today or tomorrow? Write a brief prayer of response.



# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-5:10

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-5:10

## SERMON NOTES

# 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-6:2

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

## REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-15

Paul begins verse 11 with the word, “Therefore.” How does verse 11 tie in with what came before?

If someone asked you why Jesus died on the cross, what would you say? Write your answer below. After you’ve answered, look at verse 15. Why does Paul say Jesus died? What strikes you about that?

REFLECT

Think back on your day yesterday. In what ways did you live for yourself? In what ways did you live for Jesus? Write a brief prayer of response.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

What do you think Paul means when he says, “we regard no one according to the flesh?” How do you regard others according to the flesh? How have you seen growth in this area over the course of your life with Jesus?

List the things Paul says God did for us in these verses. Put a star by the most meaningful one and thank God for it.

## REFLECT

In what way do you see that the old has passed away and the new life has come to you? Are there any ways you still see the “old” at work in you? Talk to God about that.

## LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-6:2

List all Paul says about his calling in these verses. Which of these do you believe God has called you to as well?

What are a few of the responsibilities of an ambassador to another country? In what ways have you been living as an ambassador for Jesus? How might you grow in this area? Write down some ideas, pick one, and follow through.

## PRACTICE

Write out verse 20 three times. Each time, write it to a different person you know who is “outside the faith but inside your reach.” What thoughts and feelings come? Talk to God about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-6:2

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-6:2

## SERMON NOTES



# 2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-7:1

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-14

Why do you think we divided the passage at verse 3? Where would you divide it, and why?

In verses 3-11, Paul lists several things that he believes validate his ministry. How would you group them by themes? Which of these defenses is most surprising to you?

## PRACTICE

Based on verses 8-10, fill out the columns below. The first is done for you. Then read the list in the right column. What thoughts come?

We are treated as...

Imposters

yet we are...

True

# 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18

Check the context of these verses. What does Paul talk about before and after these verses, and why do you think he talks about being “unequally yoked with unbelievers” here?

Fill out the columns below. How does Paul describe each? What strikes you about that? What questions do you have?

Believers

Unbelievers

REFLECT

In what ways do you think you have been inappropriately “yoked” with people who don’t know Jesus? What would good and right relationships with people who don’t know Jesus be like, and what’s the difference?

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18

In his letters, Paul says we are the temple of God both individually (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and as a Church body (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). Which do you think Paul is talking about here, and why?

What does God say He will do in verses 16-18? What does He call us to do? What do you sense God wants to say to you about that? Ask Him, then write any thoughts that come.

DIG DEEPER

What does God say about the tabernacle, which later became the temple, in Exodus 29:42-46? What does this say about us today? What is most meaningful to you about that, and what questions do you have?

# 2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-7:1

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-7:1

## SERMON NOTES

# 2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-16

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-7

What did Paul say in these verses about his heart for the people of the church at Corinth? What does he say about their hearts for him? What strikes you about this?

Paul told of his hardships at every turn. What are the things that helped him to persevere? What can we learn from this?

REFLECT

Where do you currently need God's comfort in your life? Why is it a place of discomfort? Write a prayer asking God to comfort you.



# 2 CORINTHIANS 7:8-12

What does Paul say about godly grief in these verses? What strikes you about that, and what questions do you have?

What does Paul say about worldly grief? How is it different from godly grief?

REFLECT

Where do you feel godly grief in your life right now? How can you tell it's of the Lord? Write a brief prayer about that.

LISTEN

Listen to the "Song of the Week" from yesterday's *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 7:13-16

What does Paul add in these verses about his feelings towards the Corinthians?

What do we learn about the relationship between Titus and the Corinthians? What thoughts and questions come to mind?

REFLECT

Is there anyone in your life whose faith you would boast about? What about their faith demonstrates eagerness or zeal?

# 2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-16

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-16

## SERMON NOTES

# 2 CORINTHIANS 8

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-7

How is the generosity of the Macedonian churches described in verses 1-5? What about their example strikes you?

Paul refers to participating in generosity as a “gift of grace.” What does that framing teach us about generosity and its place in our lives?

REFLECT

Do you see growing in generosity as a way of growing in King Jesus? Is there a way God might grow you through generosity? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 8:8-15

What are the principles of giving Paul gives in these verses? What about that is inspiring, unsettling, encouraging, or challenging?

How does Paul draw a connection between the generous work of the people of the church in Corinth and King Jesus? Do you find it easy or difficult to see the connection between your generosity and Jesus' work?

DIG DEEPER

Read Exodus 16:14-18, which Paul references in verse 15. What is the point of the story? What does that add to our understanding of God's provision and our resulting generosity?

LISTEN

Listen to the "Song of the Week" from yesterday's *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-24

What concerns does Paul mention in verses 20–21 regarding the administration of the gift? What steps did he take in today's passage to address those concerns? Why is this level of care important?

How do you think people outside the Church perceive the way Christians handle money? Does that perception match your experience? How would you talk with someone “outside the faith but inside your reach” about this?

REFLECT

In what areas has God entrusted you to manage or steward resources—personally, in your family, or within the Church? What would it look like for your financial habits and decisions to reflect the same integrity Paul models here?



# 2 CORINTHIANS 8

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 8

## SERMON NOTES

# 2 CORINTHIANS 9

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-5

What role has community with the Corinthians played in the “readiness” of the Macedonians? What role will community with Paul play in the readiness of the Corinthians?

What are the two pictures of giving found in verse 5? How have you seen both in your life? What role does grace play in generosity?

REFLECT

What experiences or emotions shape your picture of giving and generosity, for good or ill? How might God use that picture? How might He be inviting you deeper into this area of generosity?

# 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

What does the sowing refer to in this passage? What does the reaping refer to? How does this reality spur us on? What questions do you have here?

What does verse 7 teach us about God's heart for our generosity? What does it teach us about our heart for generosity? Write a brief prayer of response.

REFLECT

How does your view of your resources as scarce or abundant shape your life and your generosity? How does this passage encourage you? Challenge you?

LISTEN

Listen to the "Song of the Week" from yesterday's *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

What are the results of giving that Paul highlights in verses 10-14? What longings does that stir in your heart?

How does Paul bring his discussion of generosity to its culmination in verse 15? How does what precedes find its fullness there? What does this teach you about generosity?

DIG DEEPER

Read Psalm 112, which Paul quotes in verse 9. How does this passage lead us to see the role of generosity in the life of believers? What about the fuller picture of this passage encourages your heart? What questions do you have?

# 2 CORINTHIANS 9

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 9

## SERMON NOTES



# 2 CORINTHIANS 10

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6

What accusations were people making about Paul that he addresses in these verses? How does he respond to each?

The word “flesh” in Scripture can mean simply the physical body, or it can refer to the sinful nature that is opposed to God. How is Paul using the word in these verses, and what is he saying about it?

REFLECT

Paul talks about waging spiritual warfare. How often do you view yourself as fighting in a spiritual war? Is there a step Jesus is calling you to take here? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-12

What additional accusations does Paul address in these verses, and how does he respond to each?

How were these false teachers measuring themselves? In what ways are you tempted to do the same? Ask God to show you and write any thoughts that come.

REFLECT

How confident are you that you are Christ's (v. 7), and why? Can you think of a time in your life when you felt differently? Why was that, and what can you learn from that?

LISTEN

Listen to the "Song of the Week" from yesterday's *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 10:13-18

What does Paul say about the area or limit God had assigned to him? Why is he making that point?

What are Paul's goals in these verses? In what ways do you have the same goals? Is there something God is calling you to here? Ask Him to show you and write any thoughts that come.

REFLECT

Imagine you have a teenage daughter who told you she's running off with an older man, who's clearly turning her against you. How would you try to convince her to stay? Jot down a few ideas. How is this like what Paul is doing in this chapter (and letter)? How is it different?

# 2 CORINTHIANS 10

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 10

## SERMON NOTES

# 2 CORINTHIANS 11

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-15

What dangers does Paul address in these verses, and what would the outcome be if they were realized? What are his feelings about it all?

What does Paul say about the false “super apostles” in these verses? What strikes you about that?

REFLECT

In which primary ways do you believe Satan is trying to deceive the Church today? Ask God, then write any thoughts that come. Pray that God would protect His people against these deceptions.



# 2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33

What does Paul say about boasting in these verses?  
What do we learn from this?

Paul lists several things he “boasts” about in these verses. How would you categorize the list? What general things is he boasting about? What strikes you about this?

REFLECT

What are the things you are most tempted to boast about, take pride in, or subtly want people to see in you related to your walk with Jesus? Ask God to show you and write a prayer of response.

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33

Read slowly through the list of Paul's sufferings in verses 23-28, picturing what each would have been like. What do you sense God wants to say to you through this today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

What things that show your weakness? What would it look like to "boast" in those things?

DIG DEEPER

Read Ephesians 3:7-8, where Paul describes his calling to preach the gospel as a "grace" or a gift. How can Paul see it that way, considering the suffering he describes in our passage today? What can we learn from this?

# 2 CORINTHIANS 11

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 11

## SERMON NOTES

# 2 CORINTHIANS 12

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

What is Paul “boasting” about in this passage? What are the clues that the “man” of verse 3 is actually Paul himself?

What does Paul say about boasting in these verses? What strikes you about that, and what questions do you have?

REFLECT

What do you think it was like for Paul to see this vision of heaven? What impact do you imagine it had on Paul, and would have on you if you were to have such a vision?

# 2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

What does Paul say about the thorn in verses 7-10?  
What was its purpose, its source, its outcome, etc.?

Write out verse 9 slowly. Think about each word as you write. In what area of your life do you need to hear these words from Jesus today?

PRACTICE

Is there a brother or sister in Christ at Hope who might need to hear these words today? Write a brief prayer for them. Consider sending it to them, letting them know.

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 12:11-21

What accusations were being leveled against Paul and how does he respond to them?

What is Paul afraid of in verses 19-21? Which of these strikes you the most, and why?

REFLECT

Which lines in these verses give us a window into Paul's love for the people of the church at Corinth? Pray that God would deepen your love for your siblings at Hope.



# 2 CORINTHIANS 12

## WRAP-UP

What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write a brief note to someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” telling them what you wish they knew and could experience from this week’s passage. You don’t have to send the note, but write it out, and pray for them as you write.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 12

## SERMON NOTES

# 2 CORINTHIANS 13

## OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What thoughts, feelings, or desires are stirred in you by this passage? Write a brief prayer about that.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-4

What is Paul warning them about in verses 1-4, and what do we learn from this?

Do you tend to be too “weak” or soft in dealing with people, or too “strong” or forceful? How do you see that in your life right now? Ask God to show you and write any thoughts that come.

REFLECT

This week, we’ll be reviewing what God has been saying to us through 2 Corinthians. Look back at each Friday’s answer to question one. What did you learn about God that was most striking or meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer of response.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 13:5-10

Do what Paul urges in verse 5. Examine yourself. Are you in the faith? Is Jesus in you by His Spirit? If so, write a brief prayer of thanks to God. If not, or if you have any doubts, write them below. Then reach out to a trusted friend or a staff person at Hope to talk about it.

Examine yourself again, this time reflecting on whether you are “doing wrong” (v. 7). Ask God and write any thoughts that come. If so, confess them to God, ask for His forgiveness, receive the grace He died to give you, and ask for His help to turn from it.

REFLECT

Look back at each Friday’s answer to question 2. What sticks out about what God was saying to you over those weeks? Is there a step He is calling you to take?

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13

List below Paul's commands in these verses. Which of these is the greatest challenge for you right now, and why?

What do you sense God is most wanting to say to you through this chapter this week?

REFLECT

Look back at each Friday's answer to question 3. What do you most want someone outside the faith to know and/or experience? Is there a step He is calling you to take here?

# 2 CORINTHIANS 13

## WRAP-UP

One of Paul's closing instructions is to rejoice! Take some moments to reflect on all God has done, is doing, and has promised to do for you! Write some below and take joy in Him!

Paul commands the people of the church at Corinth to "greet one another with a holy kiss." How have you been warmly greeting people at Hope, particularly those you don't know? How can you do that next Sunday?

REFLECT

Write out verse 14 below, reflecting on each word as you write. Who at Hope comes to mind as you write these words? Pray that blessing for them and consider sending them a text or note to that effect.

# 2 CORINTHIANS 13

## SERMON NOTES



# SEPTEMBER 1-7

## 2 CORINTHIANS 1

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do we learn about Paul's heart toward the people of the church at Corinth in this chapter? What most encourages and/or challenges you about that?
- What are the elements of the Christian life Paul mentions in verses 3-7? How have you been experiencing some of these things recently?
- What does Paul say about his affliction in verses 7-11? What is meaningful to you about that? What questions do you have?
- What does Paul say about prayer in verse 11? If these things are true, why do you ask for prayer so infrequently?
- What does Paul say about God in this chapter? How have you experienced this in your own life?
- Imagine that someone said to you, "God never gives us more than we can handle." How would you respond to them, based in part on these verses.
- Consider showing the 9-minute Bible Project overview of 2 Corinthians. See QR code on page 10.

# SEPTEMBER 8-14

## 2 CORINTHIANS 2

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some of your favorite smells?
- List all the ways Paul says the Corinthians responded and should respond to this “offender” who caused pain. What do we learn here about how we should relate to one another in the Church today?
- What does Paul say about the “aroma” of our lives? What thoughts, feelings, and questions does that stir in you?
- Who is someone in your life who is the “aroma of Christ” to you? In what ways?
- What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you?
- Spend some time in prayer as a group, asking that God would increasingly make you the aroma of Jesus to Him and those around you.

# SEPTEMBER 15-21

## 2 CORINTHIANS 3

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been asked to do something you didn't feel adequate enough to do? What did you do? How did it go?
- What does Paul say about his adequacy for the ministry of the gospel? What do we learn from this?
- List together what Paul says in verses 1-11 about the Old and New Covenants. Consider using a whiteboard if you have one. What strikes you?
- What does Paul say about the veil in verses 12-18? What thoughts, feelings, and questions arise?
- What do we learn about God in this chapter? What is most meaningful to you about that?
- What is one thing you sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Is there a step He's calling you to take?

# SEPTEMBER 22-28

## 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is one thing about the gospel or about God you were “blind to” at one point, and now see?
- What does Paul say about the gospel in verses 3-6? About unbelievers? About Jesus? About God? What is most meaningful to you about those things? What questions do you have?
- In verse 7, what is Paul referring to when he says “treasure” and “jars of clay”? What is meaningful to you about that, and what questions do you have?
- In which ways can you relate to Paul’s descriptions of himself in verses 8-12? In which ways do you not relate? How do you feel about that?
- What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you, and why?
- What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Is there a step He’s calling you to take?
- As a group, spend some time praying for people you know who are “outside the faith but inside your reach.” Pray God would say those words, “Let there be light” in their hearts!

# SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 5

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-5:10

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you have a memorable camping experience, positive or negative? If not, share a memorable travel experience.
- List together the messages in these verses that could help those who are grieving the death of someone who loved Jesus, or that give you the most hope about your future in Jesus.
- Paul seems to be talking about three states of being in these verses: the “tent” of our earthly bodies, being “unclothed” or without a body in heaven, then being “clothed” in our eternal body after Jesus’ return. What does he say about each, and what questions do you have?
- How did the hope of heaven and living eternally in God’s New Creation impact your week? How would you like it to impact this coming week?
- What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you, and why?
- What do you imagine people who don’t know Jesus think and feel about death and eternity? What would it be like to live that way? Spend some time praying for them, that they would know the joy of hope in Jesus!

# OCTOBER 6-12

2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-6:2

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- If you had to be an ambassador to another country, which would you choose and why?
- In which ways did you live for yourself this past week? How have you seen growth in living your life for Jesus lately? In what way do you most want to see more growth?
- List together the things Paul says God did for us in this passage. Which of these are you most grateful for today? Which is hardest for you to grasp and why?
- What does Paul say about his calling in these verses? Which of these do you believe God has called you to as well?
- What are the responsibilities of an ambassador? How might you grow in being an ambassador for Jesus?
- What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? What step might He be calling you to take?

# OCTOBER 13-19

2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-7:1

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Was there ever a time in your life when you hung out with the “wrong crowd” (or *were* the wrong crowd)? How did that end?
- What is most encouraging or inspiring to you about how Paul defends his ministry in verses 3-11? What is most surprising?
- What do you believe are right relationships with people outside the faith, and what crosses the line as inappropriately “yoked”? Explain.
- What does Paul say about believers and unbelievers in verses 14-18? What strikes you about that? What questions do you have?
- What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you, and why?
- What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? What step might He be calling you to take?

# OCTOBER 20-26

2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-16

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is something you've done that you now regret?
- What does Paul say about worldly grief in these verses? How is it different from godly grief? How have you seen either in your own life?
- Where do you currently need God's comfort in your life? Why is it a place of discomfort?
- Is there anyone in your life whose faith you would boast about? What about their faith demonstrates eagerness or zeal?
- What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you?
- What is one thing you most wish someone who is "outside the faith but inside your reach" could know or experience from today's passage?



# OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 2

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Talk about one of the most generous gifts you've received.
- What are the principles of giving Paul shares in these verses? What thoughts and feelings do they evoke in you?
- Do you see growing in generosity as a way of growing in King Jesus? What in your life has helped you grow in generosity?
- In verse 15, Paul references an event in Exodus 16:14-18. What is the point of the story? What does that add to our understanding of God's provision and our resulting generosity?
- How do you think people outside the Church perceive the way Christians handle money? Does that perception match your experience? How would you talk with someone "outside the faith but inside your reach" about this?
- What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

# NOVEMBER 3-9

## 2 CORINTHIANS 9

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Were your parents really tight with money when you were growing up, or did they spend more freely? What do you think about that today?
- What role do you see the Christian community playing in each other's generosity in this passage? What can we learn from this?
- What experiences or emotions shape your picture of giving and generosity, for good or ill? How might God use that picture? How might He want to transform it?
- How does your view of your resources as scarce or abundant shape your life and your generosity? How does this passage encourage you? Challenge you?
- What are the results of giving Paul highlights in verses 10-14? What longings does that stir in your heart?
- What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you?

# NOVEMBER 10-16

## 2 CORINTHIANS 10

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is one thing people often misunderstand about you?
- What accusations made about Paul is he addressing in this passage? How does he respond to each?
- Paul talks about waging spiritual warfare. How often do you view yourself as fighting in a spiritual war? Is there a step Jesus is calling you to take here?
- What are Paul's goals in these verses? In what ways do you have the same goals? Is there something God is calling you to here?
- Imagine you have a teenage daughter who tells you she's running off with an older man, who's clearly turning her against you. How would you try to convince her to stay? How is this like what Paul is doing in this chapter (and letter)? How is it different?
- What do we learn about God in this chapter? Which of these is most meaningful to you? Write a brief prayer about that.

# NOVEMBER 17-23

## 2 CORINTHIANS 11

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is an award or accomplishment from your childhood that you are proud of?
- What dangers does Paul address in this chapter, and what would the outcome be if they were realized? What are his feelings about it all?
- What does Paul say about the false “super apostles” in these verses? What strikes you about that?
- What are the things we Christians are most tempted to boast about or take inappropriate pride in?
- Share about someone whose suffering as a result of their love for Jesus is an inspiration for you.
- What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today?

# NOVEMBER 24-30

## 2 CORINTHIANS 12

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you have any recurring or unusual dreams?
- What is Paul boasting about in these verses? What strikes you about that, and what questions do you have?
- What do you think it was like for Paul to see this vision of heaven? What impact do you imagine it had on Paul, and would have on you if you were to have such a vision?
- What does Paul say about the thorn in verses 7-10? Do you feel like there's something in your life that serves in a similar way?
- Which lines in these verses give us a window into Paul's love for the people of the church at Corinth? Spend some time praying as a group that God would deepen our love for each other at Hope, including in this group.
- What is one thing you most sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

# DECEMBER 1-7

## 2 CORINTHIANS 13

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who has been the primary disciplinarian in your life?
- What do we learn about Paul's heart for the Corinthians in this chapter? What is most encouraging or challenging to you about that?
- Do you tend to be too "weak" or soft in dealing with people, or too "strong" or forceful? How do you see that in your life right now, and what might be a step to take?
- Review of 2 Corinthians:
  - What did you learn about God that was most striking or meaningful to you? (First question on Fridays)
  - What sticks out to you about what God was saying to you over this series? Is there a next step here? (Second question on Fridays)
  - What do you most want someone outside the faith to know or experience? Is there a next step? (Third question on Fridays)
- One of Paul's closing instructions is to rejoice! Take some moments as a group to reflect on all that God has done, is doing, and has promised to do for you, and rejoice in Him together.

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# **HOPE** CHURCH

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