



SDG Discussion Guide

2 Corinthians 4:1-10; 16-18

October 1, 2017

For starters:

Using your imagination, have you felt lately more like a disposable cup or a crystal glass?
How so?

What thought, music or verse brings up your mood or encourages you?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective text.)

1. How does the way Paul received his ministry (vv 1, 6) make a difference in the way he conducts that ministry (vv 2-5)?
2. What do you learn from Paul about sharing your faith (vv 1-6)? About its content?
3. What forces does Paul see at work behind those who reject and those who accept the gospel (vv 4-6)?
4. In what ways does Paul contrast the glory of the gospel with the weakness of those who share it (vv 7-18)?
5. How did the light of Christ first shine through to you?
6. We can tend to assume that our shortcomings or weaknesses will hinder the gospel and detract from it. On the contrary, how do these points reveal God's power?
7. How do verses 7-12 and 16-18 help you cope with your present challenges and come to terms with your own mortality?

Do you feel free to be utterly genuine and transparent in your relationship with Christ? Talk to him about the parts of yourself you feel but you don't typically address with him. Spend some time in prayer. Thank him for how he uses "weakness" to bring about real strength. Listen for his gracious response ... and respond with action if so led.

*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996) and *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).