

Small Group Study  
2 Corinthians 7  
October 1, 2023

A suggested format for your group time

15 min – Fellowship

15 min – Prayer (using the four quadrants of the SG prayer sheet)

45 min – Study (see below)

This study is designed to introduce your small group to the dynamics of how a first century church applied the gospel to a variety of situations that threatened their unity and witness to a watching world. Students will discover that the power of the gospel provides not only the hope of eternal salvation, but the very template that will enable them to deal with the challenges of day-to-day experiences.

**2 Corinthians 7:1-16**

**Chapter Summary**

In response to the promises of God from the previous chapter, Paul commands the believers to cleanse themselves from sin and to grow in holiness. Despite the trials and hardships, he found great encouragement in the loving relationship they shared with him. Paul expressed a brief sorrow over a previous letter of rebuke, but rejoiced in the repentance the letter provoked. He expressed appreciation for the way they received and treated Titus and found joy in their mutual affection.

**Jumpstart Questions**

- Have you ever received a letter or heard a sermon that initially made you mad? If what was said was true, why do we initially respond defensively?
- Why does it make a difference whether the letter was from a friend or foe?

**2 Corinthians 7:1**

- What do you do when you know company is coming to your house? What if that company was a president, king, or famous celebrity, would you do anything differently in preparing for their arrival?
- What were the promises Paul was referring to in the previous chapter? (2 Cor 6:16-18) How did Paul say they were to respond to these promises? How can a believer cleanse themselves from sin? What are some things we can do to aid in the continual growth in holiness?

## **2 Corinthians 7:2-7**

- What type of relationship existed between Paul and these believers? What did Paul say was a source of comfort to him in the midst of his trials and hardships?
- What does it say about our faith when we read that the great Apostle Paul acknowledged outward conflict and inward fears?

## **2 Corinthians 7:8-12**

- Paul's previous letter of rebuke produced what emotion (sorrow) and what action (repentance). Is the expression of sorrow the evidence of repentance? Explain your response.
- What is the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow? How are you able to tell the difference between the tears of regret and the tears of repentance? What was the difference between the tears of Judas and the tears of Peter?

## **2 Corinthians 7:13-16**

- Why do you think Paul was encouraged by the mutual affection between the believers at Corinth and his fellow worker Titus?
- Why is it important for a church family to be in a right fellowship with one another? What is the primary reason divisions occur? How can a church protect the unity and mission of the fellowship?

### **Practical suggestions:**

1. Please feel free to modify any question and include other text-based questions that you might find helpful for your group to help them think through the passage - specifically questions that lead participants to make comments *based on the text* (not just to give opinions).
2. Invite group members to make other observations they see in the passage. Have them to identify the specific verse where that observation is made.
3. Ask what application can be made out of these verses that will help a person to put into practice the truths in the passage?
4. Ask for volunteers to read the various sections. *\*Make sure you know the person you are asking to read is comfortable doing so. Please don't just assume and put someone on the spot.*
5. Be intentional about including everyone into the conversation. Asking an 'open' question directed to a specific person who remains fairly quiet is one simple way of inclusion (in other words, a question that may not have a specific right or wrong answer). An example of an 'open' question is: *What's your favorite part of this passage? Why?*
6. Remain sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and make both ministry and teaching a priority of your group time together.