

Small Group Discussion Guide

****The Alwaysness of Confidence****

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

Opening Prayer

Begin by thanking God for His presence and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and draw hearts closer to Him.

Icebreaker

****Question:**** What's one thing this week that made you feel either really confident or really uncertain?

Scripture Reading

Have someone read ****2 Corinthians 5**** aloud.

Discussion Questions

1. Understanding the "Tent"

- Paul describes our earthly bodies as "tents" and our future heavenly bodies as an "eternal house." What does this comparison reveal about how we should view our current circumstances and struggles?
- How does knowing you have an eternal home with God change the way you face difficulties today?

2. Groaning and Burdens

- Paul acknowledges that "we groan" and "are burdened" in this life (v. 2-4). Why is it important that Scripture doesn't shy away from this reality?
- What are some burdens you're carrying right now? How does it help to know that even blessings can sometimes feel like burdens?

3. The Holy Spirit as Deposit

- Verse 5 says God "has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is a "deposit" or "down payment" in your life?
- How have you experienced the Spirit's presence as assurance of God's promises?

4. Walking by Faith, Not by Sight

- "For we live by faith, not by sight" (v. 7). The sermon emphasized that faith isn't pretending we don't see problems—it's refusing to let what we see have the final word. What's the difference?
- What's something you're currently "seeing" that you need to trust God with instead of being controlled by?

5. Our Goal: To Please Him

- Verse 9 says, "We make it our goal to please him." How does having this clear aim bring simplicity and focus to the Christian life?
- Where in your life might you need more clarity of aim? Are there areas where you're seeking to please people rather than God?

6. The Ministry of Reconciliation

- Paul says God has "committed to us the message of reconciliation" and we are "Christ's ambassadors" (v. 18-20). What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ in your everyday life?
- The sermon emphasized that we should "implore" others to be reconciled to God. Who in your life needs to hear this message? How can you share it with grace and urgency?

Personal Reflection

Spend a few quiet moments considering:

- Where do I need to anchor my confidence in Christ rather than my circumstances?
- What is one practical step I can take this week to "walk by faith, not by sight"?

Prayer Time

- ****Praise:**** Thank God for the gift of eternal life and the Holy Spirit's presence as our guarantee.
- ****Confession:**** Confess areas where you've been walking by sight instead of faith, or seeking human approval over God's pleasure.
- ****Intercession:**** Pray for those in your life who need to be reconciled to God.
- ****Petition:**** Ask God to give you always-confidence anchored in Him alone.

Challenge for the Week

****Choose one:****

1. Memorize ****2 Corinthians 5:7**** – "For we live by faith, not by sight."
2. Journal about one burden you're carrying and invite God to help you see it through the lens of eternity.
3. Reach out to one person this week and share how Jesus has made a difference in your life.

Closing

End by reading ****2 Corinthians 5:17**** together:

****"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"****

May you walk this week in the alwaysness of confidence—not because of what you see around you, but because of who goes before you.