

Small Group Discussion Guide

***"People of Confidence" – 2 Corinthians 7:16**

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question:

Share about a time when someone expressed confidence in you. How did that make you feel, and how did it affect your actions?

Introduction

This week, Pastor Mark continued the "Confidence" series by exploring what it means to be people in whom God and others can place their confidence. Paul told the Corinthians, "I am glad I can have complete confidence in you" (2 Corinthians 7:16). This message challenges us to become the kind of people who respond to God's correction with humility and growth.

Discussion Questions

1. People of Confidence Repent When Corrected (2 Corinthians 7:8-10)

Read: 2 Corinthians 7:8-10

- What's the difference between "godly sorrow" and "worldly sorrow"? Can you think of examples from your own life?
- Why is it so hard to receive correction without becoming defensive?
- Pastor Mark said, "You can't always be right and grow in godliness." How does pride prevent us from receiving correction?
- What area of your life might God be inviting you to repent in right now?

2. People of Confidence Respond When Challenged (2 Corinthians 7:11)

****Read:** 2 Corinthians 7:11**

- Paul lists what godly sorrow produced in the Corinthians: earnestness, eagerness, indignation, alarm, longing, concern, and readiness. Which of these resonates most with you?
- The sermon emphasized that "transformation includes demonstration." What visible fruit should repentance produce in our lives?
- How can we tell the difference between genuine repentance and empty promises or potential?
- What challenge from God are you currently facing? How are you responding?

**3. People of Confidence Refresh Others When Confronted (2 Corinthians 7:12-16)**

****Read:** 2 Corinthians 7:13-15**

- Titus was "refreshed" by the Corinthians' response to correction. How does our response to confrontation affect others around us?
- Think about your family, workplace, or church community. How might your humble response to correction encourage others?
- When have you witnessed someone handle correction with grace? What impact did it have on you?

**4. People of Confidence Resolve to Complete (2 Corinthians 8:7-11)**

****Read:** 2 Corinthians 8:10-11**

- Pastor Mark said, "Confidence grows not just with a starting yes, but with a sustaining yes." What's something you started well but struggle to sustain?
- What helps you finish what you start in your spiritual life?
- How does the gospel (Jesus becoming poor so we might become rich) motivate us toward completion and faithfulness?

**5. People of Confidence Rely on God's Commendation (2 Corinthians 10:17-18)**

****Read:**** 2 Corinthians 10:17-18

- Why is it dangerous to live for human approval rather than God's commendation?
- How does knowing that God is proud of you when you repent and respond change your perspective?
- For those who don't have someone speaking confidence over them: How does knowing God says "I'm confident in you" minister to your heart today?

Personal Reflection

Take a moment of silence. Ask the Holy Spirit:

- Is there an area where You're correcting me that I've been resisting?
- What sustaining "yes" do You want from me right now?
- Do I believe You're confident in me?

Closing Prayer

****Pray together:****

- For humility to receive correction with godly sorrow
- For strength to sustain our "yes" to God
- For those who need to hear "I'm confident in you"
- For anyone who responded to the altar call or is wrestling with repentance

This Week's Challenge

****Choose one:****

1. ****Repent specifically:**** Identify one area where God has been correcting you. Confess it to Him and to a trusted friend, and take one concrete step toward change this week.
2. ****Encourage someone:**** Think of someone in your life who needs to hear "I'm confident in you." Speak that over them this week.
3. ****Finish something:**** What have you started but not completed? Commit to one next step toward finishing it.

Additional Resources

- Re-read 1 Corinthians to see what correction the Corinthians received
- Study the difference between conviction (Holy Spirit) and condemnation (enemy)
- Memorize: 2 Corinthians 7:10 – "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."