

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Comfort and Encouragement

Paul writes to the Corinthian church again. This time he writes to encourage them to forgive and restore; to explain to them his motive and ministry; to enlist their help for the church in Jerusalem; and, to establish his own apostleship.

Corrections (Chapters 1:12-2:13)

Paul tells them about changes--His travel plans and their relationship with a sinning brother.

Discussion Questions:

- a. How is Paul pointing them to instructions that Jesus gave in Luke 17:3?
- b. How does lack of forgiveness give the enemy a foothold? Has this ever happened to you?

Explanations (Chapters 2:14-6:10)

Paul explains the motive and nature of his ministry, and the message of the gospel.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Why did Paul need to explain his ministry to them?
- b. What is the principle of substitutionary atonement?

Exhortations (Chapters 6:11-7:16)

Paul exhorts them to have an open heart toward him and to be separate for the world.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Why were the people's hearts turned away from Paul?
- b. What principle does Paul give for relationships with non-believers?
- c. Examine your heart: How are you impacting the unbelieving world?

Solicitation (Chapter 8:1-9:15)

Paul solicits an offering for the church in Jerusalem.

Discussion Questions:

- a. How was this offering like foreign missions in reverse?
- b. How is giving like farming? (2 Cor 9:6, Luk 6:38, Prov 11:24-25)
- c. Examine your heart: Have you observed the law of the harvest in your own life?

Vindication (Chapters 10:1-12:18)

Paul defends his authority, conduct and suffering for Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Examine your heart: How has God balanced blessing and buffeting in your life? How has this grown your character?
- b. What was the thorn in Paul's flesh?
- c. What was the idea behind the holy kiss (2cor 13:12)?