

Dig Deeper @Home – “Real and Authentic”

Complement to lesson on 5/12/24 – “Excelling in Grace”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. When you go to a restaurant, do you enjoy trying a new dish or ordering something tried and true?
2. Share about a time you were comforted by someone showing up unexpectedly.

MEMORIZE – 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

READ – 2 Corinthians 7

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God?
 - d. What are the verses revealing about people? And in light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. Why was Paul able to rejoice about the Corinthians grief?
 - a. What’s the difference between godly grief and worldly grief?
 - b. When have you experienced godly grief? Worldly grief?
 - c. What do we do when we realize we are grieving like the world?
3. “Fear” shows up in 7:1, 7:11 and 7:15. What role does “fear” have in accomplishing the directives Paul shares in chapter 7? Is this fear present in your life? How so?
4. What does 2 Corinthians 7 tell us about real and authentic community?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Real and Authentic Evaluation

Take time to evaluate the community where you live, where you work, where you study, where you play and where you worship. Is this community real and authentic? How so? How have you been encouraged/comforted by others in these spaces? How have you encouraged and comforted others in these spaces? What would help these communities become more real and authentic? What could you do to help with this?

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

The Great I Am - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeD79Vj1I5k>

In Christ Alone - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn9-UNer6MQ>

Holy Forever - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n64B42_DBSU

The Love of God - <https://youtu.be/WknJrGINyNs>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the message:

Father, if we are grieved this week, let it be Godly grief that produces a repentance that leads to salvation. Surround us with others who can comfort us through the grief and then enable us to comfort others in their grief as well.