



WEEK 1

CONTENT:

Do you believe humans are more valuable than animals or any other created thing? Why or why not?

Read: 2 Cor 4:6-11

Where did light come from according to this passage?

LEADERS NOTE: God said let there be light in Gen 1:3 and light came into existence.

Where did the light within believers come from?

LEADERS NOTE: This too came from God.

What does it mean that we have light within us?

LEADERS NOTE: 1 John 1:5 tells us that God is light and He indwells believers by His Holy Spirit.

Based on this passage in 2 Corinthians what does this presence of the Holy Spirit (light) in us give us?

If someone were to ask you, "How is God's glory displayed in Jesus what would you tell them?"

What is Paul's point in verse 7 when he uses the imagery of a jar of clay?

LEADERS NOTE: Paul is pointing to the fact that we are not the source of goodness in our own lives. The power of Christ is what makes us good and His glory is seen through our weakness

Why do you think God gave this kind of special attention to mankind in particular?

LEADERS NOTE: Gen 1:26-27 teaches us that mankind was made in the image of God and part of that was being the "rulers" of the earth. So mankind has unique value because we are made in God's image. Also as the rulers over creation when mankind fell creation fell with us. Thus creation's redemption likewise is tied up in the redemption of mankind as well (Rom 8:18-22).

In verses 8-9 Paul repeated this refrain we are _____ but not _____. What do you think he is trying to get us to understand?

LEADERS NOTE: Paul is showing that while we face adversity in our earthly and frail bodies the treasure inside of the Spirit of God causes us to never be destroyed. Put simply because Jesus is inside us nothing that comes against us will defeat us.

If you are going through a difficult season right now how do these few verses (8-11) minister to your heart?

What reality does Paul clue us into in verses 10-11?

LEADERS NOTE: He lets us know that there is a correlation between struggling and suffering for the sake of Christ and the degree in which we experience Jesus' life manifested in us. Kind of the idea of the darker the night the brighter a light shines. The more we struggle the more Jesus will manifest Himself in us.

Application:

How can you practically show someone that you value them not for what they do but simply for who they are this week?

If you are going through a difficult season right now what stands out the most to you from today's study and what can you do this week to keep the proper perspective?