

2014-11-02 Life Group
Words of Life – Speaking Courage

STUDY & DISCUSSION

- Open: What has been one of the most discouraging times or events of your life? What got you through or is getting you through it?
- Read: Life can be very difficult. Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 to see some of what Paul experienced.
- Interpret: What do you think "we have this treasure in jars of clay" or "earthen vessels" means? Why is it important for him and us to remember this?
- Interpret: Explore the words Paul uses in verse 8 & 9 and the repeated structure of "this problem, but not that." What do you think he is trying to convey to the reader?
- Read: Read 2 Corinthians 4:15-18
- Interpret: How would you describe Paul's perspective on his own trials and how he copes?
- Apply: Notice that Paul doesn't minimize the difficulties of life but instead meets them head on with faith. Talk about how you can speak faith into someone's life without trite phrases or becoming preachy.
- Apply: Everyone needs encouragement, but there are three types of people who are especially in need: The Wounded, The Weary and the Wandering. Why is it important to know which one someone is experiencing when we try to be an encouragement? Discuss the different approaches you might use depending on the person's need.
- Apply: Describe a time when you were Wounded, Weary or Wandering and someone encouraged you. What did they do? How did it help?
- Read: Read Hebrews 10:23-25
- Apply: What in these verse speak to you the most or seem most important? Why?
- Apply: Hebrews 3:12,13 tells us to encourage one another daily. How do you think you would be different if you practiced this? What practical steps do you need to take to move in that direction?
- Apply: Consider someone in your life who needs encouragement. What could you do or say in the next few days that may be a help?