

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

Ice Breaker: What's an evidence of God's grace you've seen this week?

Ice Breaker: What's your favorite song that is heavenly focused? Why is it your favorite?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-8** What is the overall theme of the book of 2 Corinthians (use a study bible for help, if needed)? What is the context of chapter 5?
2. What is the over all point that Paul is making in chapter 5, especially in verse 6-8? Why would the Corinthians need to receive this teaching?
3. Paul says, "We are always of good courage." What might be some reasons that you become discouraged in your life? Do some situations lead you into discouragement more often than others? Why do you think that is?
4. How do you think Paul's solution (e.i. heavenly mindedness and being with Jesus) would help you when you are discouraged? What are some practical steps you can take during those moments of discouragement to turn and be "of good courage"?
5. What does Paul mean that we are "at home with the body and away from the Lord"? Is this a good thing, a bad thing, or a neutral thing? What would Paul or other OT/NT authors say?
6. This passage speaks of our presence with the Lord after we die. What other passages in Scripture give us a picture into this reality? Is it a clear picture or a picture of mystery? What can we expect when we die?
7. How have you viewed "to-heaven-and-back-again" stories in the past? What makes them so popular? What words of caution might you give a friend (or yourself) about these stories?
8. Paul speaks of death so plainly and openly. Does that mirror your life and conversations? Does death come up often in your household and with your family? Should it? How much is too much? How much is too little? Discuss your thoughts as a group.
9. As a church, how can we use Sunday morning to carry our hearts upward to the rest that is found in the coming presence of Jesus? How can we help one another to cast our eyes forward and upward to that glorious day?