

# ORDINARY

2 CORINTHIANS 1-7

ev/church

# 2 CORINTHIANS: ORDINARY

## TERM 2 PASSAGE

Week 1	2 Corinthians 1:1-14	God comforts and delivers
Week 2	2 Corinthians 1:15-2:13	God is my witness
Week 3	2 Corinthians 2:14-3:6	Ministers of a New Covenant
Week 4	2 Corinthians 3:7-3:18	The ministry of the Spirit
Week 5	2 Corinthians 4:1-15	Perplexed, but not in despair
Week 6	2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10	We do not lose heart
Week 7	2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2	He died for all
Week 8	2 Corinthians 6:3-13	No stumbling block
Week 9	2 Corinthians 6:14-7:3	We would live or die with you
Week 10	2 Corinthians 7:4-7:16	God comforts the downcast

**We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.**

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

**Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).**

List the names of your family and friends here:

# TERM 2 – 2022

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

### 1. Personal reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

### 2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

### 3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.



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# READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

## Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

**The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!**

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible – amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, “He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God’s purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It’s totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term’s suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

### YEAR 1: TERM 1

Week 1	Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/>



Week 5	Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Exodus 11-15; Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 1: TERM 2

Week 1	Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 1: TERM 3

Week 1	Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>

# READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

## YEAR 1: TERM 4

Week 1	1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>

## YEAR 2: TERM 1

Week 1	2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>

## YEAR 2: TERM 2

Week 1	Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 5	Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 2: TERM 3

Week 1	Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3; Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 2: TERM 4

Week 1	Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Haggai 1-2; John 1-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Malachi 1-4; John 18-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

# INTRODUCTION: 2 CORINTHIANS

## The city of Corinth

At the bottom of an impressive rugged limestone summit, Greek Corinth had existed for several hundred years before it was destroyed by Rome in 146 BC. The city was rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 44 BC, becoming one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire. Corinth was the capital of the province of Achaia and the seat of the governor.

Roman Corinth was rich, trendy, and religiously diverse, accustomed to visits by impressive travelling public speakers, and obsessed with status, self-promotion, and personal rights. From a Jewish or Christian perspective, as with any pagan city, its inhabitants were marked by the worship of idols, sexual immorality, and greed.

## Paul's relationship with the Corinthians

The church in Corinth began in approximately AD 50-51 as part of Paul's second missionary journey; his relationship with them was roughly over a seven-year period. Paul visited Corinth three times and wrote four letters in total, two of which have been lost to time. The letters we know as 1 and 2 Corinthians are actually his second and fourth letters to them.

## Paul's purpose in writing 2 Corinthians

In between 1 and 2 Corinthians, Paul had written the church a "severe letter" to encourage them to repent of something (7:6-16). Titus had previously returned from Corinth with news of the Corinthians' positive response and repentance, greatly encouraging Paul. So Paul wrote this letter to share his joy over their repentance with them (7:4 and 16), to encourage the Corinthians' ongoing obedience (8:10-11) and to prepare the Corinthians for Paul's upcoming visit (12:14). Overall, the letter was written to "strengthen" the faith of the Corinthian church (12:19).

## "Ordinary"

We've called this series "Ordinary" because Paul's key encouragement to the Corinthians is to realise that God uses very ordinary things in extraordinary ways. Things that look amazing are "seen", and "temporary" and "fading away". But the most important things are "unseen", "eternal" and "glorious".



The whole Christian life is lived trusting an invisible God, “we live by faith, not by sight” (5:7). Just as the Corinthians lived in a world dominated by what they could see, we too are constantly pulled to love and trust the visible. Just as God used this letter to strengthen the Corinthians thousands of years ago, He’ll do the same for us today.

### Book recommendation:

#### *Read This First* by Gary Millar



The Bible is the most extraordinary book you’ll ever read; it’s how God speaks directly to us and how His Spirit works to change us. But it can seem intimidating, confusing and even a little bit boring.

In this book, Gary Millar shows you that the skills you need to read the Bible are not beyond your grasp. In a warm, approachable style, he gives you the tools to read and understand the Bible for yourself, helping you move from confusion to confidence as you enjoy refreshment in God’s word.

Whether you are a new believer and don’t know where to start, or you have been a Christian for a while but have never got into a regular habit of Bible reading, this book will equip you to get going. As you read the Bible, you will hear God speak, and you will be changed to be more like Jesus. Don’t miss out!

Gary Millar is the Principal of Queensland Theological College in Brisbane, and head of The Gospel Coalition Australia.

# WEEK 1: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-14

Ancient letters began with a standard pattern of greeting. Christian authors took those greetings and gave them a Christian shape. Paul's letters are great example of this because we still have so many of his letters.

## DAY 1: "To the church of God in Corinth"

### Read: 2 Corinthians 1:1-2

1. How is Paul's greeting here similar and different to his greetings in his other letters?
2. Why might Paul include these features in his greetings?
  - a. Why didn't Paul mention the Holy Spirit in verse 2?
3. What are some customs or patterns in your life that you could tweak into a more Christian shape? How could you do that?

**Prayer:** Give thanks to God for the grace and peace He's given us in the Lord Jesus Christ.

# GOD COMFORTS AND DELIVERS

## DAY 2: The Father of compassion

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5;  
Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16

### Read: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

1. What does Paul say here about sufferings and comfort?
2. From the passage, why doesn't God take away all of Paul's suffering?
3. How would you like to relate to God when you're suffering?

**Prayer:** Thank God that our comfort can abound through Christ. Ask for help to have Paul's perspective when troubles and suffering visit.

# WEEK 1: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-14

## DAY 3: “We despaired of life itself”

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

1. What does Paul say here about his attitude to hardship?

2. How should our attitude be different to Paul's attitude?

3. How could you rely on God and not on yourself today?

**Prayer:** Pray for God's deliverance for those who are facing troubles as they spread the Gospel. Ask God to transform your own attitude towards hardship.

# GOD COMFORTS AND DELIVERS

## DAY 4: Reliance on God's grace

**Read: 2 Corinthians 1:12-14**

1. What does Paul reveal here about his own ministry?
2. Why has Paul conducted himself in this way?
3. What decisions could you make today that would help you to value the same things Paul values here?

**Prayer:** Thank God for humble ministers. Pray that God's people everywhere could do what they do for the sake of others, not for their own reputation or gain.



# WEEK 1: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-14

## DAY 5: God comforts and delivers

**Read: 2 Corinthians 1:1-14**

1. What do you think Paul wants for the Corinthians?
2. Why does Paul talk about himself so much at the start of this letter?
3. What kinds of things are you expecting Paul to write about for the rest of 2 Corinthians?

**Prayer:** Pray for our time together in 2 Corinthians this term. Ask that God would help us to understand what we read, and that we would keep moving as a church towards maturity in Christ.

# GOD COMFORTS AND DELIVERS

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 2: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:15-2:13

There was some tension between Paul and the Corinthians because of some misunderstandings about Paul's circumstances. In this week's passage, Paul sets out to reaffirm his love for the Corinthians and explain what's gone on.

## DAY 1: Paul's integrity

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 1:15-17

1. What is Paul talking about when he says, "Because I was confident of this..." in verse 15?
2. What is Paul doing in this paragraph?
3. Why do our words and promises matter?

**Prayer:** Give thanks to God for Paul's integrity. Pray that we would all grow to be like him as he imitates Christ.

# GOD IS MY WITNESS

## DAY 2: Paul and God's promises

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7;  
Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2

### Read: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

1. What is Paul saying here about God's promises?
2. What is Paul saying here about his own ministry?
3. Why does Paul think that God's promises and his own ministry are connected?
4. How significant should Paul be in your own understanding of God's promises?

**Prayer:** Thank God for keeping His promises in Christ. Ask God to help you value most "what is to come".

# WEEK 2: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:15-2:13

## DAY 3: God is my witness

Read: 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:4

1. What does Paul want to convince the Corinthians of?
2. Why does it matter so much to Paul? Why does he care?
3. How could you rejoice in and grieve over the right things today?

**Prayer:** Thank God for Apostles who deeply cared about the people they were serving. Pray for help in having a similar heart to those around us.



# GOD IS MY WITNESS

## DAY 4: We are aware of Satan's schemes

**Read: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11**

1. What does Paul teach us here about sin in the Church?
2. Why does Paul take this approach to this man's sin, and write about it in this letter?
3. Is there someone you should forgive, apologise to, or reaffirm your love for today?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the forgiveness He has given us in the Gospel. Pray that God's forgiveness would flow from Him, through us, to others around us.

# WEEK 2: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:15-2:13

## DAY 5: The Lord had opened a door for me

**Read: 2 Corinthians 2:12-13**

1. What does Paul say here about open doors?
2. Can you find Troas on your maps in the back of your Bible (if you have maps)?
3. Why does Paul include this little bit of detail in his letter?
4. Which opportunities or open doors could you say “no” to for the sake of others?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the wisdom and love He has given us to make decisions with. Pray that you’d be able to know what’s right to do throughout your day today, and that you’d do it!

# GOD IS MY WITNESS

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 3: 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-3:6

Paul's ministry has been under attack in Corinth while he's been absent. The Corinthians aren't sure why Paul's ministry has received mixed responses from the people he preaches to. So Paul sets out to explain and defend his ministry — he's not out to please people, but to do a spiritual work which many will be offended by. We'll start the week by reading the whole passage, then we'll break it down for three days, and zoom out again at the end.

## DAY 1: Ministers of a New Covenant

**Read: 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:6**

1. What topics do these three paragraphs all have in common?
2. Why have they been broken up into three paragraphs? What makes them different from each other?
3. How would you like to be used by God to "spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him" around you today?

**Prayer:** Give thanks to God, for how He includes us in His plans to make Himself known. Ask that you would get your confidence in this from Christ, not from yourself. Pray for opportunities today to share Christ with others.

# MINISTERS OF A NEW COVENANT

## DAY 2: The pleasing aroma of Christ

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130;  
Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4

### Read: 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

1. What is Paul saying here about aromas?
2. How can the same aroma have such a different impact on these two groups?
3. Think about some of the different ways people have responded to you sharing about Jesus with them. What might their responses tell you about what's happening when you do that?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the simple message of salvation we have in Jesus. Ask that many people who've previously found the Gospel offensive, would one day soon find it attractive and pleasing. Pray that God would give life to some people you know.



# WEEK 3: 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-3:6

## DAY 3: Spiritual letters

### Read: 2 Corinthians 3:1-3

1. What is Paul saying here about letters of recommendation?
2. Why doesn't he need a letter written with ink?
3. Are there ways that you measure other Christian leaders in ways you shouldn't? How would Paul encourage you to measure Christian leaders here?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the work of His Spirit in the lives of so many throughout history, and in our community today. Ask that God would continue to work in human hearts. Pray for all of our growth in seeing and measuring others in the right way.

# MINISTERS OF A NEW COVENANT

## DAY 4: Paul's competence

**Read: 2 Corinthians 3:4-6**

1. What is Paul confident about in verse 4?
2. Why does Paul want the Corinthians to know where his competence comes from?
3. In which areas of Christian service would you like to grow in competence? How might God grow you in that?

**Prayer:** Thank God for His work through the Apostles, who competently served under the New Covenant, so that the Gospel would eventually make its way to us.

# WEEK 3: 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-3:6

## DAY 5: The letter kills

**Read: 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:6**

1. What does Paul say about the Spirit throughout this whole section?
2. Why is there such a contrast between the Spirit and the letter?
3. Are there ways you've understood the Christian life that give the wrong significance to the Old Testament Law of Moses, or the wrong significance to the Spirit?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the grace we have in the New Covenant. Thank God that we've been given life, without being required to perfectly obey His law. Ask for help in living a godly life, with a transformed heart.

# MINISTERS OF A NEW COVENANT

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 4: 2 CORINTHIANS 3:7-3:18

Paul's making some massive claims in this week's passage. He's comparing his ministry with the ministry of Moses, and he's saying that his own ministry is better! But not only is it better, its ministers have a different shape to their ministry than Moses did.

## DAY 1: Two ministries

**Read: 2 Corinthians 3:7-11**

1. What is Paul saying here about the two different "ministries"?
2. Why does Paul even compare them with each other?
3. Are there ways you need to reconsider how you've thought about the Law of Moses?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the better ministry of the Spirit. Pray that you would love what's truly glorious, not just outwardly impressive.

# THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT

## DAY 2: The veil is taken away

**Read: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18**

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135;  
Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6

1. What does Paul say here about veils?
2. Why does Paul use the image of veils to distinguish between Moses and Christ?
3. How has Jesus opened your eyes to understand the Old Testament laws?

**Prayer:** Thank God for His transforming work in your life. Ask God to help you regularly “contemplate the Lord’s glory”. Ask that many more would have the veil lifted away from their hearts.

# WEEK 4: 2 CORINTHIANS 3:7-3:18

## DAY 3: Moses' veil

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 3:13 and Exodus 34:29-35

1. Why were Aaron and the Israelites afraid of Moses?
2. Why did speaking with the Lord make Moses' face shine?
3. How can this experience with Moses help you to understand the value of what you have in Jesus?

**Prayer:** Thank your Heavenly Father for Jesus, who has revealed God to us in a way that we can bear. Pray that you'd marvel more often at the amazing blessing we have in the Gospel of God's grace.

# THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT

## DAY 4: The Lord is the Spirit

**Read: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18**

1. What does Paul teach here about the Spirit?
2. Why is there freedom where the Spirit of the Lord is?
3. What would be some ways you could enjoy the freedom you have in the Spirit, without abusing that freedom?

**Prayer:** Ask God to continue His transforming work in you by His Spirit. Ask for help in some particular areas that you could see there being a great benefit in growing.



# WEEK 4: 2 CORINTHIANS 3:7-3:18

## DAY 5: Two covenants

### Read: Hebrews 8

1. What does the author say about the two covenants here?
2. What connections are there between Hebrews 8 and 2 Corinthians 3:7-18?
3. How should you live today knowing that the first covenant is obsolete?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the New Covenant, established on better promises. Thank God that we each can know Him, and that He has forgiven our wickedness and will remember our sins no more.

# THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 5: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15

Paul's ministry life wasn't easy. He suffered for the sake of Jesus' name among the Gentiles. Yet, his understanding of the Gospel enabled him to persevere through it all, and it kept him "simple" in his preaching of that Gospel.

## DAY 1: Setting forth the truth plainly

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 4:1-4

1. What does Paul say here about how he conducted his ministry?
2. Why doesn't Paul use fancy techniques in his ministry?
3. How would you like to simplify the way you explain the Gospel to other people? What is the simplest way of explaining the Gospel without missing anything important?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the "light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ". Ask God to help you be content to see others glory in Jesus, not in your abilities.

# PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR

## DAY 2: We preach Christ as Lord

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138;  
Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8

### Read: 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

1. What does Paul say here about glory?
2. Why does Paul compare God's work in the darkness to God's work in our hearts?
3. Do these two verses make you want to change the way you share Christ with others, or do they encourage you to keep doing what you're already doing? Why?

**Prayer:** Give thanks to God for His work in our hearts to give us His light. Pray that many more would be given the light of the knowledge of God's glory.

# WEEK 5: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15

## DAY 3: This power is from God

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

1. What does Paul say here about power and weakness?
2. Why has God chosen this plan of weak ministers?
3. How does this passage encourage us to view ourselves and our God?

**Prayer:** Give thanks for the life of Christ that's revealed in our weakness. Ask God for strength to serve Him today, and to die to your own desires, wants and passions.

# PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR

## DAY 4: This is for your benefit

**Read: 2 Corinthians 4:13-15**

1. What does Paul say here about his faith?
2. Why do Paul's beliefs change him the way it does?
3. What can you do today to help you look forward to the time when you'll be raised from the dead?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the promise of our resurrection. Ask for help in keeping your eyes fixed on Heaven.

# WEEK 5: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15

## DAY 5: I believed, therefore I have spoken

**Read: 2 Corinthians 4:13 and Psalm 116**

1. Paul is referring to Psalm 116:10 in 2 Corinthians 4:13, but it can be hard to see that in different translations. Which themes in Psalm 116 connect with the themes in 2 Corinthians 4:1-15?
2. Why would this be a comforting psalm for Paul in his ministry?
3. Why would it have encouraged him to keep speaking?

**Prayer:** Thank God that He doesn't surprise us with suffering for the Gospel, but that He prepares and preserves our souls through it. Ask for help in trusting in the Lord, and a confidence to speak the truth.

# PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES



# WEEK 6: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-5:10

Paul's commitment to Gospel ministry was unique. But it wasn't simply that he was a unique man — he still considered himself weak, a jar of clay. Rather, Paul's clarity about his future was key to his perseverance through trouble and suffering for the sake of Christ.

## DAY 1: What is unseen is eternal

**Read: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

1. What different things does Paul say here about his suffering?
2. How can Paul describe these troubles as "light and momentary"?
3. How could you have Paul's attitude towards your own suffering, without ever pretending that suffering isn't still painful?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the eternal glory we look forward to. Ask God to help you keep life's troubles in perspective. Ask for help in living a life that values what is eternal over what is temporary.

# WE DO NOT LOSE HEART

## DAY 2: We have a building from God

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142;  
Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10

### Read: 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

1. What does Paul say here about our bodies?
2. What does Paul reveal here about the time between our death and resurrection?
3. Why might Paul care about the details of what happens after we die?

**Prayer:** Give thanks to God that we know where we're going, and that it's so so good! Ask God to help you keep trusting Him here, even though life can make you groan and long for the New Creation to come now.

# WEEK 6: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-5:10

## DAY 3: The intermediate state

**Read:** Philippians 1:23; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

1. What does Paul say in these passages about the time between our death and resurrection?
2. Why might some Christians think something different happens between death and resurrection?
3. What difference could it make for us today knowing that we'll one day be consciously with Jesus in the Intermediate State?

**Prayer:** Ask God to give you a faith that can stand the fear of death in your life. Ask for a confidence that empowers you to share the news of eternal life with those who aren't ready to meet Jesus yet.

# WE DO NOT LOSE HEART

## DAY 4: We live by faith, not by sight

**Read: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10**

1. What is Paul confident about?
2. Why does Paul say we live by faith, not by sight?
3. How should knowing that “we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ” shape the way you live today?

**Prayer:** Give thanks to God for the confidence He’s offered us in Christ. Pray that these truths would sink down deep into you, so it would always be your goal to please Him too.

# WEEK 6: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-5:10

## DAY 5: We do not lose heart

### Read: 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10

1. As you re-read this section, what is the main thing Paul wants the Corinthians to understand?
2. Why is that important for them to hear?
3. How important is it for you to hear this message too?

**Prayer:** Thank God for eternal life! Pray that it would be a great treasure for you all of your life.

WE DO NOT LOSE HEART

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 7: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-6:2

Paul has a whole range of motivations for living for Jesus' Kingdom: Love, truth, righteousness and even fear. Some of these motivators can seem to be in conflict with each other, but when you understand God as Paul does, they fit. As we understand God and His plans more clearly, the motivation for the Christian life flows more naturally.

## DAY 1: What is in the heart

**Read: 2 Corinthians 5:11-12**

1. How does verse 11 connect with last week's passage?
2. What does Paul say here about his motivations for being accepted by the Corinthians?
3. What could you do today to help you focus on what's in the heart, rather than what's seen?

**Prayer:** Thank God that He tells us about what really matters: not external appearances, but eternal, spiritual, unseen reality. Ask for help in discerning what truly matters as you seek to please Him today.

# HE DIED FOR ALL

## DAY 2: One died for all

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:13-15

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145;  
Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12

1. What does Paul say here about Christ's death?
2. Why does Christ's death fit here in Paul's argument?
3. How might the death of Christ impact some of the larger decisions you're making in your life at the moment?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the love of Christ, who died that we might live. Ask for help in living not for yourself, but for Him who died and was raised again.



# WEEK 7: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-6:2

## DAY 3: The ministry of reconciliation

**Read: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

1. What does Paul say here about his ministry?
2. How is Paul's ministry connected to Jesus?
3. How is your participation in the ministry of reconciliation different to the Apostle Paul's?

**Prayer:** Thank God for those ministers and all those Christians who understand what our shared ministry is: to see people reconciled to God. Pray for us all, that we wouldn't get distracted by other endeavours, however good they may be. Ask that we'd be focussed on what matters most.

# HE DIED FOR ALL

## DAY 4: He became sin

**Read: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 again**

1. What does Paul say here about what God has done through Christ?
2. Why does the death of Christ mean Paul no longer regards anyone from a worldly point of view?
3. What would be the difference for you in regarding people in a worldly way, versus regarding people as those who need to be reconciled to God?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the double swap that happened in Christ — our guilt became His, and His righteousness became ours. Pray for some people you know who are not yet reconciled to God.

# WEEK 7: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-6:2

## DAY 5: The day of salvation

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

1. What does Paul say here about the time we live in?
2. Why is it urgent that people accept God's grace?
3. How do you personally express the urgency of salvation in a life that seems like it could last for 80 years or so?

**Prayer:** Thank God for His salvation. Pray that God would grow a sense of urgency in you for the salvation of sinners. Pray that He'd give you wisdom to figure that out as a lifelong ministry.

HE DIED FOR ALL

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 8: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-13

Paul uniquely suffered for the sake of the Gospel. Our lives aren't meant to exactly mirror his. But we can definitely learn to imitate his motivation, which will lead us to give up much comfort and ease for something so much greater.

## DAY 1: Having nothing, and yet possessing everything

**Read: 2 Corinthians 6:3-10**

1. What does Paul say here about his experience in ministry?
2. Which of these experiences might have been the most painful for Paul?
3. Which of these experiences do you most want to avoid in your life?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the resilience He gave Paul for the sake of the Gospel. Pray that God would build that same resilience in you as you grow in your love for the lost.

# NO STUMBLING BLOCK

## DAY 2: Paul's suffering

**Read: 2 Corinthians 6:4  
and 11:21-29**

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147;  
Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14

1. What has Paul suffered?
2. Why hasn't Paul given up?
3. Why might Paul want the Corinthians to understand what he's gone through?

**Prayer:** Thank God for a Gospel worth suffering for. Pray that we'd be a church that never grows ashamed of "weak" ministers like Paul.

# WEEK 8: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-13

## DAY 3: Paul's ministry in Acts

**Read: 2 Corinthians 6:4 and Acts 16:13-40**

1. What motivated these people to attack Paul and Silas?
2. What motivated Paul and Silas to remain in the prison after the earthquake?
3. What would it look like for you to have Paul's attitude to life?

**Prayer:** Thank God for His amazing work in the life of His Apostles. Pray that God would use you to spread the news about Jesus, even if it means you suffer for it.

# NO STUMBLING BLOCK

## DAY 4: Paul's heart

**Read: 2 Corinthians 6:11-13**

1. What does Paul say here about his relationship with the Corinthians?
2. Why does Paul care about how the Corinthians feel about him?
3. Paul is well known for his deep theological writing. What do verses like these help you to see about Paul's heart?

**Prayer:** Thank God that Paul served the Corinthians out of love. Pray that we'd be able to do the same as we serve those around us, not for our own sake but for theirs.



# WEEK 8: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-13

## DAY 5: Stumbling blocks

### Read: 2 Corinthians 6:3-13

1. What does Paul mean when he mentions the stumbling block in verse 3?
2. What would it look like for someone to preach or teach for their own sake?
3. How different is Paul in the way he does his ministry?
4. Are there ways you could change your love and service of others to be more helpful to them, even if you don't look as impressive when you do it?

**Prayer:** Thank God for a simple Gospel. Pray that we would all grow in humility as we try to build one another up in the things of Christ, and as we invite others to learn about Christ for the first time.

# NO STUMBLING BLOCK

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 9: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:3

Paul cares so much about the Corinthians. His concern about who they align themselves with isn't his own petty jealousy, he wants them to be safe and he wants them to honour God.

## DAY 1: Unequally yoked

**Read: 2 Corinthians 6:14-15**

1. What does Paul say here about who we connect ourselves to?
2. Who might Paul be worried that the Corinthians are connecting themselves to?
3. What does this mean for our relationships with unbelievers?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the community of Christians He's called us to belong to. Pray that we'd be wise in our relationships with unbelievers, for their sake, and for our own.

# WE WOULD LIVE OR DIE WITH YOU

## DAY 2: I will be their God

**Read: 2 Corinthians 6:16  
and Ezekiel 37:24-28**

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150;  
Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16

1. What is Paul saying here about God and His people?
2. What significance is there in God being with His people in Ezekiel?
3. What does who you connect yourself to say to those around you?

**Prayer:** Thank God for being our God, for the covenant of peace! Ask God for wisdom in your relationships with those in your life.

# WEEK 9: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:3

## DAY 3: Be separate

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 6:17 and Isaiah 52:9-12

1. What is Paul saying here about being separate?
2. What are the consequences Paul expresses of separating ourselves from unbelievers?
3. What would it look like for you to be separate, while still living among unbelievers?

**Prayer:** Thank God for receiving us as we lose our closeness to the world around us. Thank God for the gift of Christian community! Pray for clarity in how you can best love those around you who don't yet know Jesus.

# WE WOULD LIVE OR DIE WITH YOU

## DAY 4: I will be a father to you

**Read: 2 Corinthians 6:18 and Romans 8:14-17**

1. What are Christians to God?
2. Why does the image of father and child work really well for describing our relationship with God?
3. As you think about your relationships with unbelievers, how could your relationship with your Father in Heaven give you what you need to do what's best for those in your life?

**Prayer:** Thank God for our adoption as His children! All of our earthly fathers fall short of being perfect the way our Heavenly Father is perfect, so pray for help in understanding God's fatherhood rightly — He is perfect, He knows what we need, and He always does what's best for us.

# WEEK 9: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:3

## DAY 5: Make room for us in your hearts

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 7:1-3

1. What does Paul say here about how he's related to the Corinthians?
2. Who might Paul be trying to separate the Corinthians from?
3. How could you protect yourself from influences that are harmful to your Christian life, and more deeply attach yourself to Paul and other influences that are a blessing to your faith?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the promises God has made and kept for us. Pray that you'd be able to be a blessing to those around you, to keep them moving forward in their Christian life.

WE WOULD LIVE OR DIE WITH YOU

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES



# WEEK 10: 2 CORINTHIANS 7:4-7:16

Paul's Christian life wasn't a solitary life, trusting in God alone. Of course, Paul ultimately trusted God, but he deeply depended on the comfort that God provides especially through fellowship with other Christians. It's a comfort that's also available to us today, and one that we neglect to our own loss.

## DAY 1: God comforted us

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 7:4-7

1. What does Paul say here about how he was comforted?
2. What does this show you about Paul's heart?
3. How could you use some time today to comfort another Christian in simple ways?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the Gospel Community. Pray for opportunities to be a comfort to others who are going through hard times in their Christian life. Also pray for opportunities to be an ongoing encouragement to those who are going well in their Christian life.

# GOD COMFORTS THE DOWNCAST

## DAY 2: Godly sorrow

Read: 2 Corinthians 7:8-10

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21;  
Jeremiah 16-20

1. Why did Paul want the Corinthians to be sad?
2. What are some differences between godly and worldly sorrow?
3. Are there ways you should change how you share the Gospel with people, so that they have the opportunity for the right kind of sorrow?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the salvation He gives us, which takes away our regret. Pray for more sorrow on the Central Coast!

# WEEK 10: 2 CORINTHIANS 7:4-7:16

## DAY 3: You have proved yourselves

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 7:11-13a

1. What have the Corinthians done?
2. Why does Paul care so much about how the Corinthians responded to their sorrow?
3. Are there some ways you need to “clear yourself” or to “see justice done” today?

**Prayer:** Give thanks to God for His work in the lives of the Corinthians, that Paul could be so confident when he wrote to them. Ask that God would always be growing in us a concern to be innocent of any wrongdoing, especially in our relationships with one another.

# GOD COMFORTS THE DOWNCAST

## DAY 4: Titus' spirit has been refreshed

**Read: 2 Corinthians 7:13b-16**

1. What does Paul include here about Titus?
2. Why would Paul include these details in the letter? Who was Titus to the Corinthians?
3. Why does Paul care so much about relationships between Christians?

**Prayer:** Give thanks to God for those Christians who have contributed in big ways to your faith. Ask for opportunities to help other Christians make some big steps forward too.

# WEEK 10: 2 CORINTHIANS 7:4-7:16

## DAY 5: Paul's relationship with the Corinthians

**Read: 2 Corinthians 7:4-16**

1. What impression do you get of Paul as you read these verses?
2. What is it about Paul that gives you that impression?
3. How do those features of Paul connect with what our God is like?

**Prayer:** Give thanks to God for His sacrificial love for us. Thank Him for His concern to treat us in the way that benefits us, even at the expense of the life of His Son. Pray that you too would become more and more like Christ, year after year, that thanksgiving would overflow to His glory.

# GOD COMFORTS THE DOWNCAST

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES



