



Discussion Guide
Don't Give Up Yet
LEADER GUIDE

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Hey leaders! In this sermon, “*Don't Give Up Yet*”, we were reminded that through the power of the gospel, God calls us, transforms us, and works through our weaknesses. Though our suffering is temporary, it produces an eternal glory far beyond comparison, encouraging us to walk by faith and not give up.

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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**“We always find that those who walked closest to Christ
were those who had to bear the greatest trials.”**

[Teresa of Avila]

LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!

- **Passage Summary**
 - Paul encourages believers to persevere despite challenges, emphasizing God's mercy as the source of their endurance. He faithfully proclaims the gospel, acknowledging that spiritual blindness prevents some from seeing the light of Christ's glory. Though they face suffering, they are not defeated, reflecting Christ's death and resurrection in their lives. Paul urges them to focus on eternal realities rather than temporary hardships, reminding them that their afflictions prepare them for an eternal glory!
- **2 Corinthians 4 Commentary**
 - Use this commentary for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- **What Will Make You Resilient?**
 - This would be a good resource to share with your group after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || Leader Note The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.

What is something you are especially grateful for in the past year? **AND/OR** What are you particularly looking forward to in the new year?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*“Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence.”*

[Psalm 42:5]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.

The greater the suffering we experience on earth, the greater the glory we will experience in heaven.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage multiple people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

Have a couple of people read aloud portions of 2 Corinthians 4:1-18.

1. Can someone retell the passage in your own words? *Once someone has retold the passage, ask the next question.* What is missing from the retelling? *Allow others to add the missing pieces.*
2. What stood out to you most about the passage?
3. In the sermon we heard, *"God gets more glory when He works through our weaknesses, rather than our strengths."* How have you experienced God working through a particular weakness in your life? *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
4. What did you hear repeated, emphasized, or related? Why do you think that is?
5. What do we learn about God's character and nature from this passage?
6. What do we learn about people/ourselves from this passage? (character, attitude, behavior, etc.)

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.

Based on what we've read and discussed today, what is a step of obedience you can take this week to willingly lay down your own understanding and choose to walk by faith?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

Remember ... God gets more glory when our lives can only be explained by adding Him to the equation!

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompts below!

Hope in Suffering

- Let's take a moment to reflect on the hope we have in Christ: that the greater the suffering we endure on earth, the greater the glory we will share with Him in heaven. God sees every pain and trial we face, and in His mercy, He promises to transform our suffering into eternal joy.
- As we pray, let's bring our burdens and those of others before Him, asking for His comfort and strength. Let's also thank Him for the promise of a future where all suffering will be redeemed, and we will experience the fullness of His glory.