

Treasure in Clay Pots

Icebreaker: How did you practice BLESS this week?

Discussion: For group discussion to be fruitful and engaging for everyone in your group, make sure that your discussion groups are not larger than 4 people. If possible, break up into groups of 2 or 3.

Larger Group: (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone
- Introduce the direction for the evening.
 - Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 highlight the following
 - The starting place of this conversation is that God has chosen the weak, foolish and despised of this world to reveal his glory.
 - Our goal is to boast in what Christ has done for us: redemption, sanctification and righteousness!
 - So, let us recognize and boast in our weakness so that Christ might be glorified!
- Prepare to break into smaller groups

Smaller Groups (20-25 minutes) Give the following instructions and break into small groups (2-3 people).

Have someone read 2 Corinthians 4:7-10. Paul reminds us that Christians are like clay pots full of marvelous treasure! The pots are all shapes and sizes, though not externally exceptional, their true worth is that they contain the treasure of the gospel!

- What are some treasures of the gospel that are in you?
- How did you become aware of those treasures?
- What are some ways that you struggle with your own limitations and weaknesses?
 - What are some ways that you try to hide them, or make light of them?

Have someone read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Paul makes it clear that he is very limited. When he is unashamed of his limitations, in fact, he boasts about them. Christ empowers him in his humble vulnerability!

- How has acknowledging your weakness, vulnerability, or limitation led to you experiencing Christ's power in your life?
- What are some ways that failing to boast in our weakness is hiding Christ's power in your life?
- What is an area of vulnerability, weakness, or limitation that you are currently struggling to admit to, let alone boast in?

Larger Group:

Return to larger group to give summary of your discussion in smaller groups (5-10 minutes)

How does acknowledging your limitations, vulnerabilities and weaknesses help you communicate the gospel to your friends and family?

Allow time to pray for the lost, end with B.L.E.S.S. (10-15 minutes)

Where are group members in the B.L.E.S.S. process? Model for them how to answer briefly, for example:

"I'm praying for _____".

"I have been having good conversations with _____". "I'm having lunch with _____
_____ on
_____ (day of the week)."

Closing prayer - (2-5-minutes)