

5<sup>th</sup> January 2020

# Study Guide – Lessons in Discipleship from 2 Corinthians

## Study 1 – Handling Rejection and Learning Reliance

## Please read the NIV Study Bible Introduction to 2 Corinthians for background to the letter

## Please read 2 Corinthians 10.10,12; 11.5-7

- 1. What do these passages reveal about the reasons why Paul's authority and teaching was disrespected/ dishonoured?
- 2. How do 'worldly' values differ from godly values when it comes to an attitude of honour/ dishonour?

### Please read 2 Corinthians 11.1-4

3. What was Paul's fundamental concern for the Corinthians as they rejected his authority and his teaching?

### Please read 2 Corinthians 2.4; 7.8-10

4. How do Paul's actions express God's mind & heart in an authentic way? How does this challenge or encourage you in your actions towards friends who may be in danger of turning away from the real Jesus towards something inauthentic?

### Please read 2 Corinthians 1.8-9; 11.28-29; 12.9-10

- 5. What do you find striking and encouraging about how Paul speaks about his weaknesses?
- 6. If you don't have to be super impressive and 'successful' to be a godly Christian, what do you have to be?
- 7. How might you grow a culture of Paul-like honesty and God-reliance in your small group / friendship groups?

### Please read 2 Corinthians 1.3-7; 7.6-7

- 8. Where do you naturally tend to go to get comfort when things are rough?
- 9. How might you develop a new/ growing habit of God-dependence for getting comfort?
- 10. Can you think of a time when God comforted you as you experienced difficult circumstances? Who do you know that is facing similar circumstances right now that you might share or 'overflow' the comfort you received from God with them?