

Living From Your Heart



Encourage the Heart

II Corinthians 4:7-18

Warm up

1. Have the group tell about a time when someone encouraged them in a significant way.
2. The word “heart” occurs over 1,000 times in the Bible (so it’s an important concept.) According to the Bible “the heart” refers to the center of who we are. We still think this way about the heart.
What examples of phrases we use today using the word “heart” this way.

Study

1. Read 2 Cor 4:1 and 4:16. Note the phrase “we do not lose heart.”
What does it mean to “lose heart?”
2. Read 2 Cor 1:8-9. How does “losing heart” compare to what Paul writes in chapter 1?
3. Read 2 Cor 4:7 What does the phrase “jars of clay” tell you about our humanity?
4. Read v8-18. What are some of the circumstances experiences etc that can cause us to lose heart?
5. Read verse 7 again. What is the treasure inside us - the ‘jars’? (see v1-6) and why did God choose to put a treasure in these ordinary clay pots?
6. Read v8-9. How did Paul express the tenacity that enabled him to not lose heart?
7. What is Paul saying in v10-12? Why does he begin with the death of Jesus?
8. Read v16-18 again. What helps us not to lose heart?

Getting Real

- Share at least one thing that is wearing on you right now that might cause you to lose heart.
- What is the most important “word of encouragement” in this passage that would help you to take heart this week?
- Spend time praying for one another regarding those things that were shared in 9 & 10.