

# August Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *August 7 - Week 31 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring one suitcase full of items, what would you want to have?

### **New Testament**

2 Corinthians 2 ~ 2 Corinthians 3 ~ 2 Corinthians 4 ~ 2 Corinthians 5 ~ 2 Corinthians 6

1. What are some examples of “tough” conversations? Why are they so difficult? When are they necessary? In 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:4 talks about the strained relationship between him and the Corinthian church yet his continued love and concern for them. Who has God put in your life that has been tough to love?
2. 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 describes church discipline (much as in 1 Corinthians 5, see: [www.trustworthyword.com/church-discipline](http://www.trustworthyword.com/church-discipline)). What does discipline look like in your home? What does discipline look like in your church? Why is forgiveness so important? Why is restoration our goal? How is that a picture of Christ’s love?
3. What are some of your most favorite scents? Why? What smells do you detest? Why? What do you think God means when He describes Christians as the “aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing” (2 Corinthians 2:15)? Look at 2 Corinthians 2:16. How do Christians “smell” to other Christians? Why? How do Christians “smell” to non-believers? Why? How have you experienced this?
4. How do we try to be “self-sufficient” in life? Why can it be so hard to ask for help from others? Where does our sufficiency ultimately come from? (2 Corinthians 3:5-6). Why do we need this reminder? What is the purpose of God’s sufficiency for us and in us?
5. This about your own salvation experience. How did you experience God removing the “veil” when He saved you? How did you behold the goodness and greatness of God differently? How did others see or experience God through you?
6. “Disgraceful, underhanded ways” and “tamper[ing] with God’s word” are described in 2 Corinthians 4:1-2. How have you seen that done in your life experiences with those professing the name of Jesus? How do we protect ourselves and our church from such temptations?
7. What goes through your mind when you think of your life? Disappointments? Accomplishments? Purpose? What would you still like to accomplish? Why? Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-10. How does this passage encourage you? Re-energize you? Re-focus your purpose with whatever time the Lord allows you to continue to live?
8. As you have aged, how have you experienced your “outer self is wasting away” (2 Corinthians 4:16)? Why is aging so difficult? As you have matured spiritually, how have you seen your “inner self is being renewed day by day”? Why is seeing out minds and hearts on that which is “unseen” so important?
9. What goes through your mind when you think about your own death? Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10. What did you need to hear from this passage? Why?
10. What is the purpose of an “ambassador”? How is this a helpful analogy for thinking through our own significance and purpose in life? (2 Corinthians 5:20)
11. How does Paul describe his service to God in 2 Corinthians 6:4-10? How does this put in perspective your own life of service to Jesus?
12. If you are single or widowed considering marriage, why is the command “do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 6:14) so important to obey? What is the danger of marrying a non-believer?

### **General Discussion Questions**

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

# August Sunday School Discussion Questions

## August 14 - Week 32 – Questions to Consider

### Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is something you are good at?

### New Testament

2 Corinthians 7 ~ 2 Corinthians 8 ~ 2 Corinthians 9 ~ 2 Corinthians 10 ~ 2 Corinthians 11

1. Have you ever known someone who claimed to be a Christian, but their life didn't line up with what you've seen in the Scriptures? How did that affect you?
2. What is "holiness"? What does it look like? Why is it important for the Christian? Why are the ongoing presence of God in the Holy Spirit and our future meeting with Jesus motivating promises for us to pursue holiness (2 Corinthians 7:1)? How can we live in ways where the world more clearly sees God's holiness through our changed lives? What is one way you want to see your behavior change this week to be a better witness of Jesus' love and truth?
3. Paul describes Titus as a source of comfort (2 Corinthians 7:6). Who has been a source of comfort in your life? How so? How can we be sources of comfort for others? How are churches designed by God to be a source of comfort to others?
4. What is the difference between "condemnation" ("worldly grief") and "conviction" ("godly grief") according to 2 Corinthians 7:8-11? How can we better encourage others towards repentance?
5. What does it mean to give "according to their means" and "beyond their means" (2 Corinthians 8:3)? Why is giving to God an uncomfortable subject for many of us to talk about? Should it be? How would you like to see your giving habits change in the future? What sacrifices or disciplines would you need to take in order to be more generous to God?
6. How does 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 encourage you to seek to be more generous to God? How do we go about "decided" what to give to God through our local church?
7. When you were a child, did you ever want to be famous? At what? Why? Why do you think so many "famous" people fall and fail so frequently? What does God mean when He says "let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord" (2 Corinthians 10:17)?
8. Although Titus is named throughout 2 Corinthians, a "brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel" (2 Corinthians 8:18) and a man of integrity (2 Corinthians 8:22) remains anonymous. While sometimes we cannot prevent attention being given to our names, what is the danger of fame? How should we evaluate our motives in serving Jesus?
9. Why is the reminder that "we are not waging war according to the flesh" so important (2 Corinthians 10:3)? How can we best be armed for the daily spiritual battles we face? (2 Corinthians 10:4-6)
10. How does Satan seek to lead us "astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3)? How can we guard against such attacks? What different, corrupted versions of Jesus and the Gospel are being taught today (2 Corinthians 11:4)?
11. How does Paul describe his Christian life in 2 Corinthians 11:24-28? Why is the Christian life so hard at times? How can we not only endure such suffering, but thrive in the midst of such suffering?

### General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

# August Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *August 21 - Week 33 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

If you could meet someone in history, who would it be?

### **New Testament**

2 Corinthians 12 ~ 2 Corinthians 13 ~ Galatians 1 ~ Galatians 2 ~ Galatians 3

1. God allowed Paul many amazing experiences (2 Corinthians 12:2-3) in heaven but was not allowed to speak of it. God allows Paul to suffer greatly from a “thorn” in the flesh which is a “messenger of Satan” (i.e. a demon, “messenger” is “angelos” in Greek which means angel, whether faithful or fallen) that actively harasses him. When Paul asked for relief, how did God respond? Why? (2 Corinthians 12:8-10). How are you currently suffering? What might God be teaching you from this passage?
2. Paul sees himself as a spiritual “parent” (2 Corinthians 12:14-15), investing himself in their spiritual growth. Who has invested in you spiritually? How? Who are you investing in spiritually? How?
3. Paul describes “quarreling, jealous, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder... impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality” as problems within churches (2 Corinthians 12:20-21). Why does Satan attack Christians and churches with such temptations? How can we better resist Satan’s schemes?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 13:5. Why is testing the genuineness of our faith so important? How might the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:19-23), the fruits of the flesh versus spirit (Galatians 5:16-24), and the book of 1 John help us evaluate the sincerity of our belief in Jesus? For more see: [www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-be-sure-im-a-christian](http://www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-be-sure-im-a-christian)
5. When Paul admonishes the church at Galatia he doesn’t merely describe them as rejecting certain beliefs, he describes them as deserting God (Galatians 1:6). How have you seen people you love turn away from God? How has that affected you? What are ways we can seek, like Paul, to turn people we care about back to Jesus?
6. How does Paul describe the aim of His life? (Galatians 1:10) How have you been tempted to be a “people pleaser”? Why? How does this verse help you with having the right priorities and perspective for our focus and goals in life?
7. Paul confronts Peter over his hypocrisy that “was not in step with the truth of the gospel” (Galatians 2:14). Why is such confrontation so tough? So important? Has anyone lovingly, but firmly, confronted you when you were in error? How did it go?
8. Why do you think God wants us to see our unity in Jesus rather than our external differences? (Galatians 3:28)

### **General Discussion Questions**

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

# August Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *August 28 - Week 34 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

Which cartoon or Disney character do you relate the best with?

### **New Testament**

Galatians 4 ~ Galatians 5 ~ Galatians 6 ~ Ephesians 1 ~ Ephesians 2

1. How is an adopted child different than a biological child? How are they similar? What amazes you about adoption by God? How does that kind of love make you feel? How should our witnessing be shaped by this open invitation to be adopted? (Galatians 4:1-7)
2. What was your life like before you were born again? How were you ultimately “enslaved” to the “weak and worthless elementary principles of the world” (Galatians 4:8-9)? Why is this imagery of being “enslaved” help you think more clearly about the seriousness of sin? How does this help you understand the freedom we have in Jesus (Galatians 5:1)?
3. Read Galatians 5:13-14. What is a “freedom” you might have that is better to be laid down in order to better love and serve others?
4. What does it mean to “walk by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16)? How does that help us to “not gratify the desires of the flesh”?
5. Read the fruits of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. How did that list describe you when you were unsaved/lost? Why are those characteristics evidence of lostness leading to Hell?
6. Read the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-24. How has God grown this fruit in your life since you were born again? Why are those characteristics evidence of salvation leading to Heaven?
7. While we are called to reach the lost with Gospel truth and love, we are given a warning in Galatians 6:1. What does this mean? How do we set boundaries in life to avoid temptations?
8. Read Ephesians 1:3-6. What amazes you about this? What is difficult to understand in this?
9. How does the fact that God “works all things according to the counsel of His will” encourage you (Ephesians 1:11)? Why is it so hard to see God’s goodness and purposes in the midst of so much evil? How can we move forward even when we don’t understand the “Why?” to so much suffering in the world around us and in our own lives?
10. In reading Ephesians 1 & 2, what has stood out to you? What questions has it raised? What clarity has it provided?
11. Ephesians 2:1-3 describes us in our lostness as being “dead” in our “trespasses and sins”, “following the course of this world”, “the prince of the power of the air” (Satan), and the “passions of our flesh.” How should this humble us? How should this motivate us towards greater compassion, love, prayers, and engagement with the lost?
12. How does Ephesians 2:11-22 make you want to sing and rejoice with gratitude?

### **General Discussion Questions**

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

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