

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 10:7-18 & 12:6-10. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself? What do you find to be most important in this text? Why?
2. Read 1 Jn 4:6. How does this passage relate to 2 Cor 10:7? How does Paul's view of authority - even his own - differ from the world's view? What is the point of having authority according to Paul?
3. What is Paul claiming about his ministry here? Why is that important? How would you describe Paul's tone in these verses?
4. Read 1 Cor 1:10-17. How do these verses inform Paul's argument in 2 Cor 10:7-18? To what authority does Paul ultimately appeal, & how is that the final authority? What are your temptations when others unfairly criticize you? How is Paul unlike you?
5. If we are not to compare ourselves against one another, then upon what standard are we to evaluate ourselves?
6. In what ways might Christians wrongly take credit for the work of others, or for work they have not done? What is your realm of responsibility? (And therefore of your authority) Toward what end are you exercising your authority?
7. Read Isaiah 43. How does Isaiah reinforce the idea that God's power is made perfect in weakness? Instead of eliminating painful circumstances or painful people God works through us in our circumstances & relationships for his purposes? When have you experienced God using you beyond what you thought you were able?
8. In troubling circumstances, how are people often tempted to think of God? How can Paul's words here help you help someone else?
9. Think about people in our church who are suffering. What evidences of God's power have you seen in their life? How can you encourage them today?
10. Paul pleads three times for his thorn to be removed, but it is not removed. How does this affect our persistence in prayer? How does this offer some understanding with regard to the parable of the persistent widow found in Luke 18? (esp 18:1)
11. What would you like to ask Paul about his declaration in vs 10? Have you found that to be true in your own life? Why/not? How does he demonstrate the satisfaction of generosity? How do you?

A prayer for generosity:

"I thank God who has blessed me in all ways, at all times, with more than I need. Lead me to live generously, share joyfully, and look expectantly toward the future God will give. Through Jesus Christ...Amen."

Living Water Fellowship

19th Sunday after Pentecost

3rd October 2021

COME TO JESUS

SONG:

Greater (Mercy Me) CCLI 384660

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXI0B4iMLuU>

WELCOME:

ISAIAH 12: *READ RESPONSIVELY*

² See, God has come to save me. I will trust in him and not be afraid. The Lord God is my strength and my song; he has given me victory."

³ **With joy you will drink deeply from the fountain of salvation!**

⁴ **In that wonderful day you will sing: Thank the Lord! Praise his name! Tell the nations what he has done. Let them know how mighty he is!**

⁵ Sing to the Lord! He has done wonderful things. Make known his praise around the world

⁶ **Let all God's people shout his praise with joy!**

For great is the Holy One who lives among you."

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING:

2 Corinthians 10:7-18

FAITH CHAT:

1. What is one thing you would ask God to take away from you today?
2. How have you seen God's grace at work in you through your weakness?

BIBLE READING:

2 Corinthians 12:6-10

SONG:

So Good To Me (Zach Williams) CCLI 384660

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXI0B4iMLuU>

THE MESSAGE:

AUTHENTIC GENEROSITY: SATISFACTION OF GENEROSITY

PRAYERS:

Individuals are encouraged to pray for one another in their households & to include prayers for the wider Living Water family, the Wagga Wagga community, our nation and the world's leaders.

Individual households may also choose to celebrate Holy Communion after the online service concludes. Please feel free to do so. If you know the Words of Institution you

simply say them as you would hear them in worship. If you aren't sure, then read aloud Paul's recount of the celebration in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Then share the forgiveness, life and salvation Christ offers in his body and blood. The words "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you" and appropriate elements are to be used as you celebrate together.

The Communion:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: The Well (Casting Crowns) ccli 384660

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bW5unzXXC0k>

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**† (Name), child of God, your full satisfaction is in Jesus Christ!
Amen.**

Announcements:

SONG:

All Glory Be To Christ ccli 384660

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6P2R9aTAPi>

SHOW HIS LOVE

2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-18

⁷Look at the obvious facts. Those who say they belong to Christ must recognize that we belong to Christ as much as they do. ⁸I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But our authority builds you up; it doesn't tear you down. So I will not be ashamed of using my authority.

⁹I'm not trying to frighten you by my letters. ¹⁰For some say, "Paul's letters are demanding and forceful, but in person he is weak, and his speeches are worthless!" ¹¹Those people should realize that our actions when we arrive in person will be as forceful as what we say in our letters from far away.

¹²Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing

themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant!

¹³We will not boast about things done outside our area of authority. We will boast only about what has happened within the boundaries of the work God has given us, which includes our working with you. ¹⁴We are not reaching beyond these boundaries when we claim authority over you, as if we had never visited you. For we were the first to travel all the way to Corinth with the Good News of Christ.

¹⁵Nor do we boast and claim credit for the work someone else has done. Instead, we hope that your faith will grow so that the boundaries of our work among you will be extended. ¹⁶Then we will be able to go and preach the Good News in other places far beyond you, where no one else is working. Then there will be no question of our boasting about work done in someone else's territory. ¹⁷As the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD." ¹⁸When people commend themselves, it doesn't count for much. The important thing is for the Lord to commend them.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:6-10

⁶If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, ⁷even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

⁸Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

¹⁰That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.