



Small group study materials, June 2020

Chapter & verse – John Proctor (page 16)

Read the first two chapters of 2 Corinthians, followed by John Proctor's article.

1. The opening chapter of the Bible passage explains how God consoles us in our suffering. How close are your own experiences to what Paul describes in 1:1-7?
2. In the *Reform* article, John's second paragraph lists memorable phrases from 2 Corinthians. What phrases, or words, stuck out for you when reading the first two chapters of this letter? Why?
3. The letter contains 'plenty of honesty about some of the downsides of living and of being church', says John in the article's third paragraph. What downsides have you encountered of being church? Have you found new ways of being church during this pandemic?
4. Jesus' 'wounds and weakness become part of our story,' says John, as does the 'promise of resurrection'. What difference do Jesus' wounds and resurrection make as part of our lives?
5. In his sixth paragraph, John says: 'For a long while to come, we shall often need to start with comfort.' Whom do you take comfort from and how? Are there people you could provide comfort to this week? Who might we ask God to comfort?
6. John argues, in his seventh paragraph, that being fixed on Jesus as we face difficulty may help us find God amid that difficulty. Where/in what situations have you glimpsed God amid difficulties such as this coronavirus pandemic?

For further reflection: 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.' Psalm 23:4

Prayer: Father God, our consoler and comforter in hard times, we thank you for the gentleness with which you carry us and the strength with which you raise us up. Help us to be a comfort and a strength to one another we pray. Amen.

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