

## **Bible Study: God's Earthen Vessels**

**Purpose:** This was the daily Bible reading from the Closer Walk. By looking at how we are called by God to be His "Jars of Clay" so to speak, that we would rise to the challenge of spreading the good news of the gospel. Also, it is humbling to realize that God has chosen us, His fragile people, to carry the precious message of salvation.

**Introduction:** I brought an ugly little clay jar from home, and had them look at it for awhile, and describe the various properties of it. I was looking for answers like, small, breakable, etc. After this, we opened to 2 Corinthians 4 & 5 and read aloud, making references to the jar on the table.

### **2 Corinthians 4:1-6 – Ministry by God's Mercy**

**Q:** What have we received that has come along with God's ministry?

**Q:** What does Paul mean by saying the gospel is veiled or hidden?

**Q:** According to this passage of Scripture, what are we to proclaim?

**Q:** From where does the knowledge of glory shine?

### **2 Corinthians 4:7-12 – Jars of Clay**

**Q:** Since we are the carriers of this power, can it be said it comes from us?

**Q:** Why do you think Paul talks about enduring punishment?

**Q:** So, by being afflicted like Christ, what do we have to show for it?

**Q:** Why is it, do you think, that when the flesh suffers, the spirit is strengthened?

### **2 Corinthians 4:13-15 – Faith in Resurrection**

**Q:** When you hear someone give a speech, how can you tell they believe in the cause?

**Q:** Why is believing important? (At this time of history, speaking of Christ meant death)

**Q:** What is Paul telling the Corinthians about the power of death?

**Q:** For what purpose is the spread of the gospel?

### **2 Corinthians 4:16-18 – Living by Faith**

**Q:** If the outside is being eroded, and the inside is being renewed, what will happen?

**Q:** How heavy is this weight of glory going to be?

**Q:** How are we being strengthened to bear this weight?

**Q:** What is meant by this paradox that what we can see is only temporary?

### **2 Corinthians 5:1-5 – Earthly Tents & Heavenly Places**

**Q:** What does Paul mean by talking about the earthly tents?

**Q:** Why does he say we groan?

**Q:** How can life swallow up what is mortal?

**Q:** What is our guarantee that we have these promises?

### **2 Corinthians 5:6-10 – Walk by Faith, Not Sight**

**Q:** Are we to feel at home while on this earth?

**Q:** Why is it that we must walk by faith, and not by sight? (Refer to 2 Corinthians 4:18)

**Q:** Whether here or there, what is to be our purpose?

**Q:** What is to happen at the judgment seat?

### **2 Corinthians 5:11-15 – The Ministry of Reconciliation**

**Q:** Why does Paul say he's given the Corinthians an opportunity to boast about him?

**Q:** What does Paul mean by saying he's beside himself? (Contrast with being sober)

**Q:** Taking an example from Paul, what should urge us on?

### **2 Corinthians 5:16-21 – New Creation in Christ**

**Q:** From what point of view are we to regard people?

**Q:** Through Christ, what is our purpose to this world?

**Q:** How can we, being in the world, possibly change it for the better?