

Comfort and Encouragement

Paul writes to the Corinthian church again. It seems that they heeded his instructions from the previous letter. Now, he writes to encourage them to forgive and restore. He also writes to explain to them his motive and ministry; to enlist their help for the church in Jerusalem; and, to establish his own apostleship.

Flex Your Knowledge Muscle through Charades

Objectives:	Have fun with your family while acting out Paul's ministry to the Corinthians. Experience how Paul and the believers may have felt when they were dealing with sin in the church. Become familiar with the principles in 2 Corinthians and comfortable looking up and reading the word of God.
Number of Players:	at least 3
Length:	30 minutes or more - set a time that you will play and allow time to have discussion and prayer after the play.
Set up:	Choose one person (must be able to read) to be the host and score keeper. The host should print out and cut out the scenarios on the following pages so that there is one scene per paper. Fold them in half and put them all in a bowl or hat. (print 2 copies -- one for cutting and one for the host to follow). Divide the players into 2 teams, then divide the teams into pairs--these are the sub-teams. (try to keep the knowledge base balanced) Each team sits with their team mates and slightly separate from the other team and the host. Props: Each team should have a bible (preferably New King James). A large white board or paper to keep score where everyone can see what the score is. A timer that you can set for 3 minutes. Goal: Try to get the most points by getting your team to guess which scene from 2 Corinthians you are acting out (charades).



FAMILY STUDY

The Play:

Begin by having the host explain the rules:

Each team will take about 5-10 minutes to read/review the book of 2 Corinthians. Each team member will take turns drawing one scene from the hat until all the scenes have been drawn.

The sub teams (2 people each) will then move a little away from their team to strategize--Take five minutes to review the scenes without showing them to your other team members. Then everyone should sit close to their team again.

Flip a coin to see which team will go first.

The winner will send out their first pair of teammates to act out the scene.

The teammates may begin shouting out what they think the scene is. This is where the earlier review of the book will be helpful. The opposing team should be silent during this time.

The actors will have 3 minutes to act and try to get their teammates to guess the correct scene.

If the teammates guess correctly, they will receive 5 points and a chance for the bonus points.

If they guess incorrectly or not at all, the play passes to the opposing team and they have one chance to guess the scene (think carefully and don't shout out many answers. Give one answer to the host.) If it is the correct answer your team earns 5 points. (the host will be the moderator in any debates)

Bonus Points: Whoever correctly guesses the scene now has the opportunity to earn bonus points by telling the host the scripture reference for that scene (must be from the book of 2 Corinthians). If they get the scripture reference correct, they read it aloud to everyone and they will receive 10 points. If they do not get it correct, the host should tell them what it is and either read it aloud or ask someone from one of the teams to read it aloud and no one receives any points.

Scene	Scripture Reference
<p>The corinthian church disciplines a brother who has sinned. Paul encourages them to restore him so that he won't be swallowed up with too much sorrow.-- "But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent; not to be too severe. This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. For this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. Now whom you forgive anything I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presenece of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."</p>	<p>2 Cor 2:5-11</p>
<p>Paul gives thanks to God who leads us in triumph in Christ.-- " Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ."</p>	<p>2 Cor 2:14-17</p>
<p>We are persecuted but not destroyed.-- "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;"</p>	<p>2 Cor 4:7-9</p>



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Scene	Scripture Reference
<p>For those in Christ old things have passed away and all things have become new.-- “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who know no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”</p>	<p>2 Cor 5:17-21</p>
<p>Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.-- “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? and what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.”</p>	<p>2 Cor 6:14-16a</p>
<p>Abound in grace also--“But as you abound in everything; in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us; see that you abound in this grace also.”</p>	<p>2 Cor 8:7</p>
<p>Sow bountifully, reap bountifully.-- “ But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”</p>	<p>2 Cor 9:6-8</p>
<p>Fight spiritual battles with spiritual weapons.-- Bu For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”</p>	<p>2 Cor 10:3-6</p>



FAMILY STUDY

Scene	Scripture Reference
<p>Paul explains why he has a thorn in his flesh and why that is okay.-- “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”</p>	2 Cor 12:7-10
<p>Paul concludes his letter with a farewell and some words of comfort.-- “Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.</p>	2 Cor 13:11-14

Discussion: Spend some time discussing the scriptures/scenes you read. What new thing did you learn from God's word? What impressed you about how Paul extends grace to the Christians in Corinth? What positive action will you take this week to be encouraging and forgiving of one another?

Prayer: Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.