

YOUR OWN BIBLE STUDY OF ST. PAUL

This October, our St Rose Bible Study Groups will study Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (57 AD). It was written on Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey from Ephesus to the Christian Community Paul had started during his 18 months in Corinth on his 2nd Missionary Journey around 51 AD. It is one of four letters he wrote to Corinth. We have only copies of the two in the Bible.

Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians could be entitled God's power at work in human weakness. Paul gradually and painfully experienced his human weaknesses, and comes to realize how God's power works even with our weaknesses and inadequacies. His discovery of this may help us to see God at work in us in a whole new way.

Our study of 2 Corinthians is divided into six parts or six weeks, but you can study and discuss these at your own pace. We hope this study will help you understand and live God's Sacred Word.

WEEK 1: "Partners in Pain" (read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11).

- A. During Your struggles, have you received consolation and encouragement from God? What difference has it made in your life?**
- B. Where have your own difficulties put you in a position to comfort and help someone else? Where might God be calling you to do this today?**
- C. Paul was willing to talk about his weaknesses and difficulties. Do you have any personal weaknesses or difficulties you need to deal with or get help with right now?**
- D. What have been your experiences in receiving and in giving comfort to others? What works and what doesn't?**

WEEK 2: "The Power and the Glory." (read 2 Corinthians 2:14 to 4:6)

- A. When or where are you susceptible to temptations to discouragement?**
- B. Paul writes about seeing the glory of the Lord? Do you ever experience anything like this? Do statues, churches, or the Mass help you to experience God's presence, even His Glory?**
- C. Where do you most need the power of God's Spirit to help you be the person God wants you to be?**

2.

WEEK 3: “Looking at What Can’t Be Seen.” (read 2 Corinthians 4:7-5:10)

- A. Has difficulty or suffering ever led you to a deeper trust in God?**
- B. When you have difficulties, do you take either of Paul’s approaches in 4:7-11 or in 4:16-18? Do you see either of these as helpful choices?**
- C. How can Christians help each other grow in dealing with weakness and suffering?**
- D. What do you believe will happen to you when you die? Do you have confidence – as Paul does – in resurrection in Christ?**

WEEK 4: “Humility: A Kind of Weakness?” (read 2 Corinthians 10)

- A. Can you see the qualities of gentleness and humility in Jesus’ relationships with people? How have some people you’ve known acted in a gentle and humble way?**
- B. If you were to be more meek, gentle, or humble, what specifically would you have to do differently?**
- C. Do you ever mentally compare yourself to others? Do you compare other people’s weaknesses to your strengths?**

WEEK 5: “The Weakness of Being Misunderstood.” (read 2Cor. 11:1-21)

- A. When have you experienced being misunderstood or unfairly criticized? What can you learn from the way Paul faced these?**
- B. What kind of return do you expect from your services and kindnesses to others? Money? Recognition? Expressions of gratitude? God’s approval?**
- C. Paul tries to shape his life in imitation of Jesus. How well are you reflecting Jesus to those you live and work with?**

WEEK 6: “Christ’s Grace is Enough.” (read 2 Corinthians 11:21-12:10)

- A. From Paul’s experience of prayer in 12:8-10, what can you learn for your own relationship with Christ?**
- B. With what weak person is God calling you to be in solidarity with this week? What first step can you take?**
- C. What personal weaknesses are you most aware of right now? What might God want you to work on first?**
- D. If you are reluctant to let others see your weaknesses, what can you learn from Paul’s boasting about his weaknesses?**
- E. Has this study of Paul helped you see how God can use your weaknesses?**