

Reflect: Think about a time when God reminded you that God's grace was enough because "power is made perfect in weakness." How did you grow through this experience?
NOTES:

Discuss: Throughout 2 Corinthians, Paul talks about the cost of being God's servant. Share your own story of faith and what, if anything, it has cost you. What have you gained?

Pray: "God, sometimes it is so hard for us to accept that we are weak, that we cannot do as much as we hope, that we are limited. When that time comes, remind us of the grace that You give to us. Remind us that Your power is made perfect in our weakness and who we are is enough. Amen."

Create: Make a collage of something strong out of images that are associated with weakness. You can make these into the image of a cross, or a dove, or another symbol for God.

Act: Take a skill or hobby you have and share the fruits of your labor with someone else. WHAT WOULD THAT BE?



Methodist Way of Life



'Live' January-March 2026

**'LIVING IN A WAY THAT
DRAWS PEOPLE TO JESUS'**

Following the Methodist Way of Life, we will be exploring 'LIVE' during the first few weeks of 2026.

At the same time, we will be pursuing a 'TTT' programme; encouraging people to share with the Sunday congregation what they will be doing '***This Time Tomorrow***' (or any day of the week) and how that expresses their discipleship.

- What was it about him as a person that drew others to Jesus?
- What was the gospel 'aroma' that people picked up from him? (2 Cor 2v15)

For those who are interested and wish for a deeper dive, there will be a five session bible study series on the Second Letter to the Corinthians, led by Richard and offered online Wednesdays at 7pm, 14 Jan–11 Feb and in person at Marske on Mondays 3.30 – 5.00pm, meeting fortnightly, starting in the week beginning 12 Jan.

What follows is a possible structure for a five-session small group resource. It is assumed that the small groups would start in the week beginning January 19th and finish in the week beginning Feb 16th (with Lent beginning at Feb 18th).

A way to **BE**, a way to **LIVE** - **BE-LIEVE**

Each week/session, you are invited to participate with the text in whatever way you feel best suits you. You can simply reflect about the scripture, you can discuss with others in a small group about what you have read, you can create art (drawing, sculpting, painting, knitting, crocheting, writing) that is inspired by the scripture. There is no wrong way to go deeper in scripture, just have fun!

Reflect/Discuss/Pray/Create/Act

Discuss: What are ways we can renew the inside of our bodies, our spirit? What can we as a community do to continue encouraging our spirits, and the spirits of our community even when our bodies may be tired?
EG.

Pray: *"God, there are times when our bodies feel as if they are failing us. When that is our experience, remind us of your presence. Help us to know that though our bodies may fail, our Spirits are alive in You. Encourage us and surround us, always, in your love and care. Amen."*

Create: It is often with others that we find hope during hard times. What art project can you create with a friend to express hope?

Act: Bring hope to someone in your community who is home-bound. Call them up and ask if you can stop by with a treat and then share the light of Christ with them. Show them that they are not alone and that you are thinking of them.
WHO?

Session V: BEING HUMBLY CONFIDENT

Recap:

2 Corinthians 11v21 – 12v10

11v21-33: Owning our own story.

12v1-10: Strength in weakness.

Conclusion: With reference to 13v5 "Do you not realise that Jesus Christ is in you?"

Paul shares the story of what happened to him as a result of what he believes and how he shares the message of Christ with others. He then boasts that Christ's power is made perfect in his weakness.

Discuss: What does it mean to have a servant's heart? Share about a time someone was generous with their time or talents and why it made such an impression on you. What do you do to reflect God's light to the world? WHO AND HOW??

Pray: *"God, You know us more than we know ourselves. Help us to shine Your light so that others may see You in how we live and move in this world. When we face hard times, help us to remember that You have given us a community we can lean on. May we always remember the gift that comes from knowing You. Amen."*

Create: Draw/paint an image that shows light shining in the darkness. For inspiration, read 2 Cor. 4:6

Act: What are ways you can serve those in your community? Offer free childcare one day a month to give parents a respite and time to shop. EG.

Session IV: BEING HOPE-FILLED Be Hope-filled

Recap:

2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:10

4:14-18: The substance of our Hope: Life in death.

5:1-10: Living hopefully.

In 4:14-5:10 we are told about the hope we have in Christ, knowing that even if our bodies are failing, our Spirits are renewed.

Reflect: What does it mean to be hope-filled? In 4:16 Paul says "even if our bodies are breaking down on the outside, the person that we are on the inside is being renewed every day."

NOTES:

Session I: BELONGING - Be-long

Some Introduction: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

vv1-3: Belonging together.

vv4-7: Using our suffering to help others.

vv8-11: Being supported by others Comfort in affliction.

In 1:1-11, Paul and Timothy greet the church in Corinth. They then talk about the comfort we receive from God in times of trouble. Paul tells the Corinthians that we belong together. We receive comfort from God, and through that we comfort others.

Reflect: Reflect on a time you comforted someone else. Why did this mean so much to you? Did their comfort encourage you to comfort others? How do we make room for others to belong?

NOTES

Discuss: Talk with your house group/a friend/your family about ways you have been supported in times of affliction. EG.

Pray: Use this prayer, or write your own:

"

Loving God, we are grateful that we belong to You. Thank You for all the ways You welcome us, comfort us, and guide us. Help us to share all that You have given to us with those we encounter throughout the week. May our words bring comfort to those who need it most. Amen.

Create: Not everyone learns the same way, which means not everyone experiences scripture the same way. What can you create that embodies what you read in these verses? Your creativity may include the entire passage, or just a word or a phrase. What would a picture of comfort look like? Could you knit a scarf for someone to be comforted this winter season?

WHAT I'M GOING TO DO:

Act: People need to feel as if they belong before they are ready to believe. What can you do to help people who visit your church feel more welcomed? Who in your community is often left out and could use a friend? Invite them to coffee/tea. You do not need to preach to them, or even talk to them explicitly about church. How might you share God's love with them in a way that makes them comfortable?

WHO MIGHT THIS BE?

Session II: BEING REAL - Be Real

Recap:

2 Corinthians 1:12-22

vv12-14: Honesty and realness.

vv15-22: Reliability and consistency.

In 1:12-22, Paul is talking to the church in Corinth about being real. He is telling them that his motives are pure and his sincerity is Godly. He tells them he is not acting with a human process, but instead the grace of God. He tells them that all God's promises are 'yes.'

Reflect: When was the last time you made a decision after praying? Why is it so easy to decide things without looking to God first? What steps can we take to be more intentional with our decision making?

NOTES:

Discuss: Share how your community is reliable and consistent. Talk about why it is important to have consistency in our small groups, the programs we offer, and how we treat those around us.
EG.

Pray: "Generous God, You are a God whose promise is always 'yes.' You desire what is best for us, even when the answer we want is not the one you provide. Help us to be faithful in our relationship with You. May we remember the gift it is that we can bring all that we are curious about to You. Thank You for always being present in our lives. Amen."

Create: Draw/paint a self portrait. What would a picture of your most authentic self look like? Is anyone in the picture with you? What expression do you have on your face?

Act: Get together with someone in your church and reflect about what promises you can make to your community. If you promise to always be a place that welcomes, take steps to show how. Who can you invite to lunch that is on the edges of your community?

WHO WILL I MEET WITH AND WHAT MIGHT I DO?

Session III: HAVING A SERVANT HEART Be Charitable

Recap:

2 Corinthians 4:1-12

vv1-6: The glory of suffering love.

vv7-12: Glory in shame.

In 4:6a we are told "God said that light should shine out of the darkness."

Paul tells them they have treasure in jars of clay.

Reflect: What does it mean if your treasure is in a clay jar? If this means our strength comes from God and not ourselves, how does that change how we live in the world?
NOTES: