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Look out for...

As mentioned in the summary, a number of scholars think that 2 Corinthians is made up of more than one epistle. See what you think as you read – does it hang together? Could it be a single letter do you think?

The theme of boasting runs all the way through 2 Corinthians, look out for it and ask yourself what you think Paul is doing with the theme in the epistle.

Paul clearly has opponents in Corinth who were going out of their way to make his life difficult – look out for hints of who they were as you read and see if you can work out what the issue was between them and Paul.



What could this mean for me?

This letter was written when things were going badly wrong between Paul and the Corinthians. How do you think Paul handled this – is there anything to learn from for times when relationships between leaders and communities break down?



Discussion group questions

Were there any parts of the book that you particularly liked or which inspired you?

Were there any parts of the book that you disliked or which troubled you?

What did _____ think the book was about?

What did you think about Paul's repeated comments on boasting? Did you think they were subversive? Over-egging the pudding? Defensive? Hypocritical? Discuss what you think he was trying to say about boasting and what place boasting might have in the Christian faith.

One of the themes that runs through the book is weakness and how we as Christians cope with things not going to plan. What difference might it make to our Christian faith if we took Paul's weakness message here more seriously?

Another strand of teaching, particularly in chapters 8-9, is generosity. How did this make you feel? What is your view about generosity and the Christian faith?

Did you read anything in the book that touched you, expanded your faith or made you think more deeply about your life and how you live it?



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