**Easter Sunday**

**Scripture and Background Information for April 12-April 18**

To prepare for your group discussion each week**,** group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD’S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week in celebration of Easter we’ll be looking at **2 Corinthians 4:7-11**. This won’t be part of a series, but a stand alone message. As always take some time individually to study the Scripture, and then discuss the questions together as a group.

**Background for 2 Corinthians 4:7-11**

The book of 2 Corinthians was written by Paul to the Corinthian church to provide them with details about his future plans but also to defend his authority as an apostle of Jesus. There were those who had claimed that Paul’s sufferings and lifestyle revealed the absence of God’s presence and blessing in his life. Paul rejects that idea and doubles down by claiming that it is those sufferings and hardships that are proof of his authenticity as Jesus’ servant.

Chapter 4 continues Paul’s argument in chapter 3, that the message he has been tasked to preach he has done so faithfully. The notion that he has done so deceitfully or in his own strength he rejects. Beginning in v.7, Paul uses the illustration of a treasure being found in a common clay pot or jar. The image is striking and effective. Paul’s point is that in the providence of God, He purposed to use common messengers like Paul to proclaim the good news of Jesus so that the power would clearly be seen as coming form the message rather than the messenger. Rather than shying away fro this truth or trying to sugar coat his own skill Paul embraces the idea, humbly realizing that in his weakness God’s message of grace shines all the brighter.

**Upcoming Scripture Passages**

April 19th Beginning of “*Ask Me Anything*” series

April 26th “*Ask Me Anything*” series

May 3rd “*Ask Me Anything*” series