

November 15, 2020 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

1. Discuss Paul's word picture describing us as "Jars of Clay" and Mark's word picture of the Japanese art of "kintsukuroi." How do these pictures stretch your thinking about your relationship to power in all its earthly forms? (v.7)

2. How might our brokenness become an enormous advantage to display the glory of God? Describe a time when you either experienced or witnessed in others the Christian paradox of God's power working through suffering, weakness and brokenness.

3.	What words in verses 8–9 help sustain us? Why are some who go through the hardest things also the most joyful and hopeful?
4.	God chooses our crosses, our pressure points, and where we are to die daily. (vv. 10–11) If we want the power of God to bring forth the life of Jesus in us, what must we accept from our good and gracious God?
5.	What does surrender in weakness actually look like for a follower of Christ? Can you identify and share a specific right or situation you must surrender so you stop fighting against God?
6.	Paul tells us that Jesus' death is at work in us, and that this work is to be seen as an investment in others. What needs to change in your life to see yourself as an investment in others? What needs to die in you every day so that others might live? (vv. 12–15)

Use this quote from British author A.N. Wilson for inspiration: "My own return to faith has surprised none more than myself...My belief has come about in large measure because of the lives and examples of people I have known–not the famous, not saints, but friends and relations who have lived, and faced death, in light of the resurrection story, or in the quiet acceptance that they have a future after they die."

7. As you consider the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday, share with your group how you are thankful for the power of the cross in your life?