

Are you starting to lose heart? From facing illness or custody battles to overfilled schedules and challenging relationships, it's easy to feel hopelessness and despair. But when the troubles of the world start weighing us down, we have the opportunity to look to Christ for our hope. Our flesh may fail us, other people may fail us, but our God never will.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:5**. Although we might not realize it, we often fall into the habit of focusing more on ourselves than on Christ. What areas in your life do you find yourself focusing on most often?
- 2. God shows his surpassing power in our weaknesses. What is an area in your life where you feel weak? What might God be trying to teach you through that weakness?
- 3. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18**. Think of a time when you felt overwhelmed by the troubles you were facing. How did God show up in that situation to offer you hope and comfort?
- 4. Walking by faith and not by sight does not mean burying your head in the sand and ignoring your problems. It means your trust in the power of Jesus outweighs your anxiety over the problems you can see. How does having the knowledge that Jesus is more powerful than your troubles make you feel?

CHALLENGE

Think of someone in your life who is losing heart. Offer them encouragement and hope this week by sending them a note or inviting them out for coffee.

COMMIT TO MEMORY

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. **2 Corinthians 4:7**