

### **Warm Up Activity or Question**

Choose one and pursue it as a group

1. **Activity:** The group leader or member of the group reads some of God's promises from [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org). Take a few minutes to share your favorite of God's promises and why it's your favorite.
2. **Question:** Think of time in your life when someone made and kept a promise. Alternatively, think of time when a promise made was *not* kept. Take a few minutes to share this promise with the group, what happened, and how this impacted you.

### **Read and Discuss God's Word**

Read aloud this week's scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:12 – 2:13.

1. Paul defends himself against attacks on his integrity (probably due to his decision to delay a promised visit to Corinth).
  - a. How does Paul defend his integrity?
  - b. Has your integrity ever been attacked? If so, how did you defend yourself?
2. What does the word "boast" mean to you? How do you react when people boast in your presence?
3. In his New Testament letters, Paul uses the word "boast" more than forty times.
  - a. What does he mean with this word?
  - b. In 2 Corinthians 1:14, Paul says "... on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you." What does Paul mean by "the day of the Lord" and why would godly boasting on this day be important?
4. In verses 1:17 to 1:20, Paul writes about the words yes and no. In Mathew 5:37, Jesus said: "Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil."
  - a. Have you ever been told by someone either *yes* or *no* when they really meant the opposite? How did this make you feel?
  - b. What do Jesus' words imply about keeping your promises?
5. In 2 Corinthians 1:19, Paul writes that, in Christ, there is no 'Yes' and 'No', but only and always 'Yes'. Which promises of God does Paul refer to in this verse?

6. In verse 2 Corinthians 2:1 to 2:4, Paul shares his reasons for delaying his visit.
  - a. What are these reasons and what pain was Paul writing about?
  - b. Think of a time when you had to change plans, perhaps more than once. How did you deal with this?
  
7. 2 Corinthians 2:5 to 2:11 are considered by some the best texts in scripture on the motivation and rationale for forgiveness of sinners. Paul did not seek personal vengeance, but encouraged the Corinthian church to render discipline, then forgive and comfort the sinner. Why did Paul mention "Satan's designs" in verse 2:11?

### **Live it Out**

- Who do you need to forgive? This week, promise to forgive them and follow through with your promise.
- Who do you need to ask for forgiveness? This week, promise to ask them for forgiveness.
- Has anyone recently requested something from you that requires a clear 'yes' or 'no'? Decide to respond according to Mathew 5:37.
- Have you asked for something that requires a clear 'yes' or 'no'? Pray for the person to answer as Jesus would have them do.

### **Closing**

Listen to [Promises by Maverick City Music](#) on YouTube.

While the song is playing, silently:

1. By name, pray for unbelieving family, friends, and coworkers to believe God's promise that faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior brings the gift of eternal life (John 3:16).
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the perfect words at the perfect time to speak the promises of Jesus into the lives of unbelieving family, friends, or coworkers.
3. Pray that you Never Give Up on God's Promises!