Warm Up Activity or Question

Choose one and pursue it as a group

- 1. **Group Activity 1:** Watch this video (<u>about five minutes long</u>) The 1960s Idea of "The Home of 1999" on YouTube. What did the makers of the video correctly predict? What did they miss (materially or culturally)?
- 2. **Group Activity 2:** Watch the lyric video of the song No More Faith by Andrew Peterson on YouTube (about four minutes long). What do you think Andrew means when he sings "No More Faith"? What does this song say about Andrew's faith?
- **3. Group Question:** Think about the future: what issues, questions, or concerns immediately come to mind? Do these create in you comfort or fear? Why do you think this is?

Read and Discuss God's Word

- 1. Read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:1 to 10.
- 2. In verse 1, Paul talks about "...the tent that is our earthly home..." Then, he mentions "...a house not made by earthly hands, eternal in the heavens." What do you think he means with these phrases?
- 3. In verse 2, Paul wrote: "For in this tent, we groan..." What might cause you to groan? What does Paul mean in this verse?
- 4. Paul writes that life on earth is hard and that he longs to "put on our heavenly dwelling" which is believer's resurrected and glorified body. How would you like your resurrected body to appear and how do you think you will feel in this new body? Have some fun answering this one!
- 5. In verse 9, what does Paul state is the believer's purpose? In verse 10, what is Paul teaching and/or reminding the reader of this letter?
- 6. How should focusing on the external effect your daily life? What should non-believers observe in your life that might surprise them?
- 7. Read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:11 to 13.
- 8. What does Proverbs 9:10 say about fear of the Lord? Given the proverb, in what sense should you "fear the Lord"?

9. Again, Paul uses the word boast in Verse 12. About what does Paul hope that the Corinth church will boast about Paul and his ministry team? What does this say about what is important to God when you stand before Jesus at the judgement seat?

Live it Out

Warren Weirsbe¹ writes: "It behooves every Christian to examine his own life regularly to see if he is ready for the judgement seat of Christ. Wanting to give a good account is a worthy motive for Christian service."

To that end, please pray about:

- Attending a **Cross-Cultural Mission Trip**. See https://www.whatisgrace.org/missions for available opportunities in 2025.
- Attending Perspectives in 2025. Perspectives is a fifteen-week course designed to highlight different aspects of God's global purpose.
- Serving on a ministry at Grace Fellowship. See https://www.whatisgrace.org/sayyes

Closing

Watch this video clip (about five minutes long) from The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King on YouTube. In this video, the horse-riding Rohirrim arrive to help destroy evil in Middle Earth.

This should remind you of Jesus' Second Coming, when all evil will be destroyed, and King Jesus will reign forever. **Believers know the future!**

As you go about your week, remember that the war is won and **your future—as a believer in Jesus Christ—is secure.** No matter what happens this week, recall what Jesus promised in John 14: 2,3:

"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

As a believer in Christ, you know that King Jesus will make all things right. So, with eternity in mind: **Never Give Up on the Future!**

¹ Weirsbe, W.W. (1994), *Be Encouraged: God Can Turn Your Trials into Triumphs*. Published by David C. Cook, Colorado Springs, CO. USA.