



**Covenant Community Groups – Interactive Study Guide  
Week of September 21, 2008**

*The Essence of Faith: Walking by Faith*

**1. Read together**

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

**2. Questions:**

- Initial thoughts/questions?
- What's the difference between walking by sight and walking by faith? Where do you more often find yourself?
- What effect do circumstances have on your relationship with God?
- Consider Paul's example (see back for notes and verses references). What about his life makes his words from 2 Cor. 4:17 so meaningful?
- What troubles do you encounter in your life? Do you view them as "light" and "momentary"? Why or why not?
- Practically, what steps can we take to continually walk by faith?
- After looking at the examples of David, Phillip, Solomon and Paul, what changes will you make to pursue a life of faith?
- What difference does an eternal perspective make in your life?

**3. Break into smaller groups of men and women to share and pray**

**Leader note:** the goal of Covenant Community Groups is to provide an environment of spiritual growth and fellowship through reflection, study and application. Do not feel pressured to discuss every question. Instead, be flexible, promote participation, and encourage group members to continue in self-directed study during personal devotionals throughout the week. Each week we will send an Interactive Study Guide. You can choose which one to use depending on the time of the month your group meets.

**Encountering God – Encouraging Others – Engaging the World**



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Notes:

### The Example of Paul:

- **His Life Situation**
  - Affliction:
    - 2 Cor. 1:8-9
    - 2 Cor. 4:8-12, 16
    - 2 Cor. 5:1
    - 2 Cor. 11:22-33
  - Invalidation:
    - 2 Cor. 1:12-24
    - 2 Cor. 2:14-17
    - 2 Cor. 3:1-6
    - 2 Cor. 4:1-2
    - 2 Cor. 12:11-12
  - Motivation:
    - 2 Cor. 4:1-6; 12-15
    - 2 Cor. 5:1-10
    - 2 Cor. 11:28
- **His Response**
  - Persevering
    - 2 Cor. 4:1-13; 16
  - Serving
    - 2 Cor. 4:15
  - Confident and Hopeful
    - 2 Cor. 5:1-10

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