



Jars of Clay | Chad Bruegman | 10.14.18  
LG WEEKLY

## START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**What was your favorite band ten years ago?**

## SHARE

**And God said, “Let there be light” and there was light. – Genesis 1:3**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And then God spoke! Now, there are thousands of books filled with exhaustive research and biblical analysis from prestigious scholars about the creation of the world. There are many biblical views on how it all came to be. We love to debate about whether the author is referring to literal days or indefinite periods of time. And those are all interesting questions, but the problem is none of us were there to see it.

What we believe with certainty is that God spoke, and it came to be. Genesis tells us that “God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.” What God creates is good! It is no wonder that throughout scripture, those who follow Jesus are likened to ‘light’ in the midst of darkness. When the people of Jesus are around, they should reflect the light of Jesus.

Most of us grew up being afraid of the dark, but now it’s time the darkness is afraid of us.

As a disciple of Jesus, we have Jesus with us. We have God's Spirit working in and through our lives. Because of that, we don't have to fear the dark; we are not alone.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 4:4-10**

**Picture Paul writing this letter. What do you think he is trying to accomplish? What kind of tone do you think he is writing with?**

**What do you think Paul meant by "jars of clay?"**

### G R O W

By the time Paul sat down to write his second letter to the church in Corinth he had seen and experienced A LOT. He lived an amazing life, but a tough one, full of all sorts of highs and lows. Later in this letter, he shares some of the trials that he personally went through. From being put in prison, beaten several times, stoned, shipwrecked, robbed, left without food or clothes, having many sleepless nights and this list just names a few (2 Corinthians 11:23-27). When you read the fourth chapter carefully, you hear the hardships that Paul experienced coming out in the text. By this point in his life, Paul knew a few things with certainty:

1. Life can be really hard.
2. God is really good.

That is why he is able to write, "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). Paul knew that along with the low moments, came the promise that the Spirit of God never leaves us. As difficult as trials are, they also teach us how to have compassion on every person we meet. That's why the most sympathetic and understanding people in the world are usually the ones who have been through an awful lot in their lives. When you experience the undeserving grace of God in your life you have nothing but grace to offer others.

Maybe you can relate to Paul; maybe you are going through a challenging season as well. If

that's you, practice having the same perspective towards life as Paul this week. Accept the challenges in life and see them as opportunities to grow and become more like Jesus.

**Life can be really hard, and God is really good. Which of those two statements did you relate to more this week?**

**Have you ever gone through a difficult season, and come out the other side with more compassion for a certain group of people? Explain the experience to the group.**

## M O V E

It is incredibly important that we practice being kind to each other. In fact, it's so essential that Chad devoted his final message as the Teaching Pastor of Red Rocks Church to it. He reminded us that nothing changes the atmosphere of a room or brings more healing than simply being kind.

Jesus said it this way, "by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). The way we treat each other, matters. Yet, being kind can be easier said than done. It comes very natural in certain moments and with certain people. But we all have those people and circumstances that make it very difficult to be kind.

**What are some of those moments for you? When is it the most difficult for you to be kind? Why do you think that is?**

Jesus is the perfect example of kindness, even in the most challenging and painful situations. At the end of His life, while He was being humiliated, tortured and ultimately murdered on a cross, Jesus spent His last breaths praying for the very people responsible for the pain that was inflicted upon Him (Luke 23:34). That moment is the hope for us. Jesus made it possible for us to love deeply and pour out so much grace and kindness even when the world gives us permission not to. We may not be there quite yet in our story, but today we have another opportunity to extend grace and kindness while remembering that we too have been given this gift when we haven't deserved it.

Remember, every person you meet this week has a story. And if you take the time to learn their story, you will immediately have more compassion for them. Let's practice doing that

together!

**Who is the one person God is putting on your heart to extend kindness to this week?**

**What is one practical thing you can do this week to practice your kindness toward that person? Tell the group, so they can keep you accountable.**

## P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

## T O G O

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

