

Courage for Your Ministry: Learning from the Pattern of Paul

Introduction: Does God have a ministry plan for your life?

1. God is _____ the relationship between Himself and people.
2. Jesus paid the price for sin when He _____.
3. We are reconciled to God when we _____ in Jesus Christ.
4. God has _____ to use people who have been restored to Him to help in restoring others to Him.
5. What is ministry? Ministry is service on behalf of a higher _____.

Therefore, when we serve the Lord, we are supporting the work which He is doing. He is in the business of restoring the relationship between Himself and people. He has planned to use our lives in that work.

Jumping into 2nd Corinthians: What is it all about?

This is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to believers in and around the city of Corinth. He lived among them for eighteen months preaching the gospel and establishing a local church. He loved them and wanted to share with them what service for Jesus Christ looks like. Paul's second letter to them teaches us who our God is and how to serve Him faithfully.

Paul shows us that ministry involves...

Communicating the _____	5:18-21
Sharing the _____ of God	1:3-5
_____ for others	1:11
Forgiving and affirming your _____ for others	2:7-8
Spreading the _____ of God	2:14-16
Receiving our _____ to serve from God	3:5-6
Being _____ into the image of Christ	3:18

Lesson #1 – God Is in This, **So Don't Give Up** (2 Corinthians 4:1-6)

A. If God is in your _____, you don't need to give up. (vs. 1-4)

1. The reason you don't need to give up is because, with the ministry God has given you, He has also given you sufficient _____. (vs. 1)
2. The way to conduct yourself with the ministry of truth God has given you is in _____ and _____. (vs. 2)
3. The great obstacle that might cause you to lose heart is the widespread spiritual _____ that keeps people from believing in Christ. (vs. 3-4)

B. If God is in _____, you can't fail. (vs. 5-6)

1. We can press on in confidence, not because we are so great, but because we serve and proclaim a great _____. (vs. 5)
2. God _____ in us so that others can know Him. (vs. 6)

Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving your Spirit 'till the work on earth is done.