



speaking

This discussion guide includes preparation BEFORE the group and some guidance DURING the group meeting. Preparation before the group will help you, your leader, and your group to engage and respond to the living and active Word of God.

PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.

Pray & read 2Cor 4, 5.11-21

What stands out to you from these readings?

Does anything puzzle you about these readings?

How do these readings make you **feel**?

What do you **think** in response to these readings?

What will you **do** in response to these readings?

a taste of theology pre-reading: 'The ministry of the Word belongs to all' – Martin Luther

in the Trellis and the Vine, Tony Payne and Col Marshall demonstrate that speaking God's word is for all believers. They write, 'Simply by virtue of being a disciple of Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit of the new covenant, all Christians have the privilege, joy and responsibility in being involved in the work God is doing in our world, the 'work of the Lord'. And the fundamental way we do this is by speaking the truth of God to other people in dependence on the Holy Spirit. ... The New Testament envisages that all Christian disciples will be prayerful speakers of God's word, in a multitude of different ways and contexts. ... prayerfully speaking the word whenever and however [and to whomever] we can.'

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS: Pray for your discussion time

our **speaking** core value

We delight in **speaking** God's powerful Word to each other and to outsiders. As followers of Jesus we are called to speak the truth in love reaching out to the lost and building up believers.

▸ Do you think/feel this core value reflects what really matters to you as an individual and as a member of this church? Why/why not?

1. God's powerful word | read Psalms 29 & 33

▸ Discuss how powerful the word of God is:

2. the gospel - God's powerful word for outsiders and each other | read Romans 1.16-17; Col 2.6, 3.15-17

▸ We all love to speak words that have powerful impact. When are you most tempted to resort to your own powerful words and not the gospel? What spurs you on to speak the gospel even when tempted not to?

▸ Do you really believe the gospel is God's powerful word for outsiders and each other?

3. growing as speakers | In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul finishes with these words: *Therefore, my dear brothers & sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.* During this series this verse will give focus to our application. Speaking is a core value because we want to *give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.*

▸ read 2 Corinthians 4 | What does this chapter teach us about **speaking**? Can you be a believer and not speak?

▸ read 2 Corinthians 5.11-21 | What are your motivations for **speaking** the gospel?



our **training** core value

We delight in **training** each other to better serve Jesus and his people. We deliberately equip followers of Jesus to be disciple-making disciples both here and afar. (*Matthew 28.18-20, Ephesians 4.11-13, 2Timothy 2.2*)

▸ How are you making the most of the opportunities to train in **speaking** and so *give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord*?

PRAY!

