



TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

It's not hard to remember tough times. Everyone has them and everyone has stories to tell about how they got through them or are going through them. The difference in the stories is that some were broken by the experience and never recovered while others may have been broken but got through it. This is why we all need a community around us who are there for us and love us. In that situation, we are given the chance to do the same for others. This should not be strange to followers of Jesus because that is what he is doing and has done for us. He is the glue that holds our brokenness together for his glory.

Why do we tend to look back on the past and remember “the good ole days” without being honest about the trials we went through?

Looking back on a difficult time in your life, what was the difference between being and staying broken and overcoming it?

TALK ABOUT IT

[Read 2 Cor. 4:6-7.](#)

Paul describes himself and his coworkers as “jars of clay” carrying a treasure.

In what ways do you feel like a clay jar?

How do you think our weakness is a part of God's strategy to overcome?

How does it make you feel when you think about the image of Jesus being a light in the darkness?

[Read 2 Cor. 4:8-9.](#)

Which experience most connects with your life right now?

What do these verses acknowledge about suffering and the hope they offer?

APPLY IT

In verses 1–2, Paul connects perseverance with integrity.

How can disappointment or hardship tempt us to compromise?

What helps us remain faithful when doing the right thing doesn't seem to make life easier?

Russ talked about facing the facts of our situation without losing confidence in God.

What is the difference between trusting God and pretending everything is fine?

[Read 2 Cor. 4:14 and 16-18.](#)

How does the promise of resurrection Paul spoke about shape our endurance through difficult times?

PRAY BY STARTING WITH A QUESTION

Let this question be the focus of your prayer knowing that God will see us through our challenges.

Where are you feeling your limitations right now?