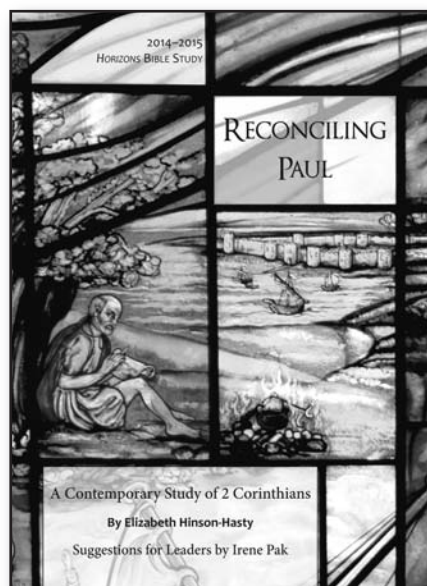


Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians

2014–2015 *Horizons* Bible Study by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty

Workshop for Leaders

By Betsy Ensign-George



What is this?

The Workshop for Leaders is a lesson plan. It includes activities that explore, and resources that support, the 2014–2015 *Horizons* Bible study, *Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*.

Who is this for, and why?

If you're a Bible study leader, this workshop is for you. You can use it with other leaders and (with some adaptation) by yourself. Well-informed leaders are confident leaders. The goal of this workshop is for you to have the information you need to be a confident leader.

Where can I use this workshop?

In your congregation: If a PW circle (or circles) or an adult education class shares leadership of the Bible study (for example, a different person teaches each lesson), all of the leaders can be introduced to the study at the same time and better understand where the lessons they will lead fit into the overall plan.

In your synod or presbytery: Plan to lead a workshop at a gathering of Presbyterian Women or a meeting. Leaders from different congregations can support one another and meet other leaders to whom they can go for help and ideas.



What is *Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians* about?

Paul's writings are some of the most influential in Christianity. Revisiting the struggles Paul faced and the authenticity and integrity of his theology is an essential task for churches today in the midst of great change.

Paul, like us, wrestled with and questioned his faith as he tried to live as authentically as possible in an ancient world that, like ours, was also in the midst of

great change. What can we learn from visiting 2 Corinthians and considering Paul's theology and ideas as they relate to the context of our time?

Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty invites us to read Paul's letter afresh in light of today's issues. Concepts of shared partnership, power in weakness, healing, reconciliation, love, and a new apostolate all figure prominently in her reading of Paul.

Things You Need to Lead the Workshop

- Bibles
- A copy of *Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians* for each participant
- Pens, pencils, and markers
- Post-it notes or other removable notes to use to mark the books of 1 and 2 Corinthians
- Index cards or card stock to use to make nametags; safety pins, or hole punches and yarn loops, that participants can use to wear the tags; or stick-on nametags
- Candle to serve as a Christ candle; candle holder, and matches to light the candle; or a battery-powered candle
- An easel with a pad of paper and a marker

Meet the *Horizons Bible study*

Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians was written by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty; Irene Pak provided the Suggestions for Leaders that go with each lesson. Find their bios in the study book on page one. The art is a collection of stained-glass images. Look for information about each piece in the captions that accompany them. The *Horizons Bible study* committee began work on this study in March 2010. Five years of dreaming, studying, praying, creating, and field testing have gone into the study you have in your hands. It is ready for you.

Preparing for the Workshop

Read 1 and 2 Corinthians. The study is about 2 Corinthians, but understanding 1 Corinthians will be important, too. Use Post-it or other removable notes to mark both books in your Bible. You will be coming back to 1 and 2 Corinthians throughout the study, so it helps to have them marked. You'll do this with participants during the workshop.

Read *Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*. Note how the parts work together. Review the table of contents and find the items listed there. Take time to become familiar with the study book.

Review this workshop model. Decide whether you will offer all or some of the suggested activities. Gather necessary supplies.

Find a candle to use as a Christ candle, and a holder for the candle. In the Bible study, we suggest that leaders start each lesson by lighting the Christ candle and praying the prayer provided. The workshop will start the same way.

Make a nametag for yourself. Use an index card or other card stock, or a stick-on nametag. Write your name and something you know, or a question you have, about Paul on the tag. Attach it to yourself before the workshop begins.

Pray for yourself and for the workshop participants as you prepare to lead.

Right before the workshop begins

Set up the meeting room. Set up furniture in a way that makes it easy for participants to see one another, around tables, if possible. Check lighting and temperature. Will participants be comfortable? Make sure that all technology you are using works. Try it, and try it again. What's your back-up plan if the equipment doesn't work during the workshop?

- Arrange supplies so that they are ready.
- Set out nametag-making supplies where participants can use them.
- Set up the Christ candle and have matches ready (or use a battery-powered candle).
- Consider inviting a participant to help you by lighting the Christ candle as you read the prayer. Be ready to ask for a volunteer.

Begin

Welcome participants as they arrive. If people are early, invite them to help you set up.

Ask participants to make nametags. Direct them to write their names and something they know about Paul, or a question they have about Paul, on the tag. Move around the room, meeting and greeting and helping to attach tags as needed.

As the nametag-making activity winds down, invite participants to move to their seats.

Read the prayer from Lesson One (if you're not meeting around a table, substitute the words "in this place" for "at this table") and light the Christ candle.

Welcome everyone to the workshop. Explain your reasons for being together and add details particular to your situation. Ask participants to turn to the person on their left (or in front or beside—it helps to be specific) and introduce themselves. Suggest that they talk about what they bring to the study of Paul and 2 Corinthians. What do they know about Paul? Are they familiar with 2 Corinthians? Do they

remember favorite verses from the letter? Do they have a question or concern about Paul? Call the group back together before the conversation winds down completely. Introduce yourself by telling them what you bring to the study and what your initial understanding of Paul is.

Introduce the study

Hold up or display the Bible study book and read the title: *Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*. Tell everyone that the study was written by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty; that the art is stained-glass images from churches in the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, and the United States; and that Irene Pak provided the Suggestions for Leaders that go with each lesson. (Find author bios and more about the art on page one and the inside front cover.)

Give each participant a copy of the study.

Invite participants to look at the front cover and tell you what they see there. Point out that the cover art is part of a larger stained glass image that illustrates the life of Paul. The entire image can be found on page one in the study book, on the front cover of this workshop and on the poster that came with the book. Ask participants to find the cover image in either of these larger pictures. Hint: It's a small image in the third panel (on the right).

Direct participants to work with the two or three people near them and look through their books to find the stained glass art that goes with each lesson. What do they see going on in each picture? Does the art give them hints about each lesson? What about the scripture underneath the images?

Invite participants to open their books to the inside front cover and page one to see the PW purpose, "About this Bible Study," "About the Art," and biographical information about the authors. Both authors are teaching elders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Turn the page to see the table of contents on pages two and three. Briefly review the table of contents and turn the page. Participants

using a large-print version of the study will see different page numbers. A page numbering guide is in the back of the large-print study and can be used to find content in either book.

There are three parts to the introduction to *Reconciling Paul*, on pages four through seven. In *A Letter to the Contemporary Church*, Elizabeth reflects on what she brings to the study and on questions that she engaged throughout the study. Elizabeth knew that most people who use the study will use it in a group, so she worked with a group as she developed it. On page six she introduces this Circle of Interpreters, three women who helped her learn more about Paul and 2 Corinthians. Their questions may be your questions, too. Look for the final part of the introduction on page seven. The box, Symbols and Things to Look for in the Study, describes features found throughout the book: bold words are defined in the glossary, a note explains how to incorporate the use of a Christ candle, hymnal abbreviations are listed, and the Suggestions for Leaders is highlighted.

Invite participants to find 1 and 2 Corinthians in their Bibles. Suggest that they use Post-it or other notes to mark both letters. They can write the name of each letter on the outside edge of each note so that the names can be seen when the Bibles are closed. Studying the Bible is an important commitment and preparing their Bibles in this way is part of getting ready to do the hard work of studying together. The marker tabs will help to keep 1 and 2 Corinthians up front in their minds throughout the months of the study.

Exploring *Reconciling Paul*

Make the transition to a time of individual exploration. Offer all of the activities or choose from the ones listed here. The activity descriptions that follow have been written directly to participants. You can photocopy them, cut them out, and use them as description cards at each activity location.

Point out the different activities you have arranged around the meeting space. We suggest:

Time with the Stained-Glass Art

Supplies: *Reconciling Paul* coloring page downloaded from www.pcusa.org/horizons (click on the Bible Study tab and scroll down), copy of *Reconciling Paul*, crayons, colored pencils, markers

Use crayons, colored pencils, or markers, and color in the coloring page of the cover. Take time to look closely at each lesson's stained-glass image.

Where Paul Traveled

Supplies: Maps of Paul's journeys (maps can be found in Bible atlases like *The Harper Collins Concise Atlas of the Bible* and in *The Children's Illustrated Bible* by Selina Hastings and Eric Thomas. There also is a map on the Bible study poster.)

Review the maps provided to gain a sense of where Paul traveled. Remember, Paul traveled by foot, boat, and horse. What do you think he felt and experienced as he traveled?

Finding Bible Study Resources on the *Horizons* Web Pages

Supplies: Internet access and a computer with a screen

Go to www.pcusa.org/horizons.

Click on the Bible study tab. Look for the free downloadable Workshop for Leaders, web exclusives, and other helpful resources. Follow links to see where they take you. Preview the ordering process. Make notes about leader helps you can find on the *Horizons* web pages. (Resources will be added to the website during summer 2014.)

Write a Letter to Paul

Supplies: Stationary and envelopes, pens and pencils

It's the beginning of our study of 2 Corinthians. There's a letter writing activity in the suggestions for leaders for Lesson One. What questions do you have for Paul? Write him a letter, save the letter, and look for answers as you study *Reconciling Paul*. Plan to do this activity with your study group, too.

Church as a Temple of Paradise

Supplies: Copies of *Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*

Find the reproduction of the painting, *Temple du Paradis*, on page 80. The author uses this painting as an example of what a community of shared partnership might look like (this theme is central to the study and described in the paragraphs near the painting on pages 80–81). Look closely at the picture. What's going on during the worship service illustrated there? Do you see the baptism? The children? The dog? What does this painting communicate about communities of shared partnership? Is everyone included?

Note: If you are ever in Geneva, Switzerland, look for *Temple du Paradis* at the International Museum of the Reformation.

Planning with the Lesson Summary Chart

Supplies: Copies of the lesson summary chart in this Workshop for Leaders resource, *Reconciling Paul* study books, and pencils and pens

Review the lesson summary chart and find in the study book the items listed on the chart. Look closely at the study book. Find the map on the Bible study poster attached to the center of the book. Consider how you can use all of this information to help you lead your Bible study groups.

Start your planning now.

Call participants back together and help them compare notes about their experiences. Ask them to share what they discovered. What are their new insights for leading Bible study groups? Point out that the activities emphasize different learning styles. While they may have been most comfortable doing one type of activity, it was still possible for them to learn something doing an activity that might not have been their favorite. Remind them that being aware of different learning styles is an important part of being a Bible study leader. Suggest that they push themselves to try to use learning styles in which they are weak as well as include the ones in which they are strong. For instance, if they think that they would never choose to do an art project, there could be someone in their group who would love to learn that way. What works for the group might not be the leader's first choice but it could still be a good choice for the group. Encourage participants to include a mix of learning styles when they lead.

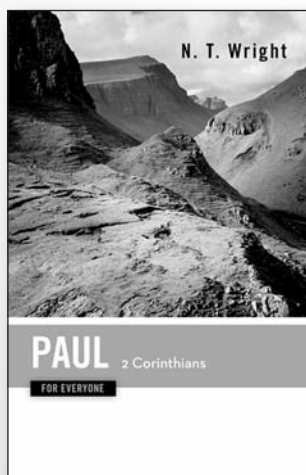
Ask participants to share their ideas for leading their *Reconciling Paul* study groups and note their ideas on an easel pad. Review the notes with the group and think together about ways that they can plan and lead their groups.

Invite your workshop group to share contact information. They can be a circle of interpreters for one another.

Going Forth

Close the workshop with this prayer from Lesson Nine and extinguish the Christ candle:

O God, enable us to discover your logic in that which seems illogical to us. May we discover abundance when we expect scarcity, be surprised by satisfaction as opposed to luxury, and find your power in our weakness and in the vulnerability of love. We pray that a new awareness of your grace will turn our notions of power, authority, and honor upside down. Amen.



Support the Publishing Ministry of Presbyterian Women

For generations, even before women had voice or vote in the church, Presbyterian women—like you—have understood that staying connected through communication makes all mission and ministry possible. Thanks to you, publishing continues—both in printed and digital formats through our award-winning *Horizons* Bible study and magazine and other ministry resources—to connect Presbyterian women one to another and to the church, even during times of challenge and transition.

Any gift to support the publishing mission of Presbyterian Women will help ensure that Presbyterian Women's publishing legacy continues for another generation. For a limited time only, you will receive a copy of N.T. Wright's book, *Paul for Everyone: 2 Corinthians (while supplies last)* for any gift of \$50.00 or more to the publishing ministry of Presbyterian Women. Send your check made payable to "Presbyterian

Women" with a note that includes your name and address and indicates that you would like to receive N.T. Wright's book on Paul to *Horizons*/Presbyterian Women, PO Box 421, Congers NY 10920-0421.

About N.T. Wright's *Paul for Everyone: 2 Corinthians*

Making use of his scholar's understanding, yet writing in an approachable and anecdotal style, Tom Wright helps us to understand from the beginning of the second letter to the Corinthians that something unexplained yet terrible has happened. We feel the pain of Paul from the very opening lines as he confronts dreadful issues of sorrow and hurt, emerging with a clearer picture of what it meant to say that Jesus himself suffered for us and rose in triumph. The letter itself moves through tragedy and from there leads into the sunlight.

Lesson Summary Chart

	Title	Focus Text	Focus Idea	Features	S for L	Hymns GtG = Glory to God PH = Presbyterian Hymnal StF = Sing the Faith
Intro				A Letter to the Contemporary Church, p. 4 Introducing the Circle of Interpreters, p. 6 Symbols and Things to Look for in the Study, p. 7		
1	The Promise and Problem of Paul	1 and 2 Cor.	What questions, assumptions, and experiences do you bring with you as you begin reading Paul's letter? How do you approach Paul?	Map: The Jewish Diaspora, p.10 Points to Ponder: First Corinthians as the "Prequel" to the Letters that Follow, p.16	p. 17	"Seek Ye First" (PH 333, GtG 175) "Cantad al Señor/O Sing to the Lord" (PH 472, GtG 637)
2	Paul in the Context of Ancient Corinth	2 Cor. 1:1-2:4	Offers a basic outline of 2 Corinthians, provides important historical background about the church that Paul founded in Corinth, and gives an overview of the issues facing the church in Corinth	A Brief Outline of 2 Corinthians, p. 20	p. 25	
3	Covenants and God's Enduring Faithfulness	2 Cor. 3:1-4:6	Explores the meaning of Paul's reference to "old" and "new" covenants in 2 Corinthians and considers how these ideas relate to our contemporary understanding of Christian relationships with people of different faith traditions	Chart: Characteristics of Paul's Transformative Ministry and Characteristics of False Ministries, p. 30 Reflections: Thoughts from a Coffee Conversation with a Rabbi in My Local Community, p. 32	p. 33	"Give Me a Clean Heart" (StF 2133) "Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace" (PH 374) "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" (GtG 753)
4	Carrying in Our Bodies Jesus' Acts of Healing, Reconciliation, and Love	2 Cor. 4:7-5:10	Focuses on Paul's understanding of how the community of faith, the "body of believers," carries Jesus' death within it by continuing acts of healing, reconciliation, and love		p. 43	"Womb of Life" (StF 2046) "Change My Heart, O God" (StF 2152) "We Lift Our Voices" (GtG 710)
5	Reconciliation and the Whole Creation	2 Cor. 5:11-6:10	Invites us to expand our understanding of reconciliation, healing, and transformation to a much broader, even cosmological, context as we entertain the concept of "new creation"	Points to Ponder: New Creation, p. 47 Birthing Community, p. 47 U.S. Consumption in Global Perspective, p. 50	p. 51	"All Things Bright and Beautiful" (PH 267, GtG 20) "Earth and All Stars" (PH 458, GtG 26) "For the Beauty of the Earth" (GtG 14)
6	The Aroma of God	2 Cor. 2:14-17; 6:14-7:1	Examines the connection between 2 Cor. 2:14-17 and 6:14-7:1 in light of the ancient practice of epiphany processions. Paul uses processions or parades as a metaphor to clarify his authority and to emphasize the idea that all followers of Christ are called to show their faith in action.	Points to Ponder: An Original Part of or a Later Addition to Paul's Letter?	p. 59	
7	Economy of Grace	2 Cor. 8:1-15	Explores the challenge 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 offers us to engender fair balance and grace in the global economy		p. 67	"O for a World" (PH 386, GtG 372) "My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout" (GtG 100)
8	Power, Authority, and Honor are Not Always What We Might Expect	2 Cor 11:1-33	Invites you to reconsider Paul's understanding of apostolic power, authority, and honor, and to redefine your own	Points to Ponder: Family Ties, p. 74	p. 75	"Lift Every Voice and Sing" (PH 563 or GtG 339) "We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom" (GtG 378)
9	A Call to Apostleship In the Twenty-First Century	2 Cor. 12:1-13:13	Explores the relevance of apostleship for our contemporary situation and asks: What does true discipleship mean?	Painting: <i>Temple du Paradis</i> , p. 80 Points to Ponder: Paul and Power, p. 82 Twentieth-century Apostleship, p. 82	p. 83	"Take My Life" (PH 391, GtG 697) "Canto de Esperanza/Song of Hope" (PH 432, GtG 765) "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" (PH 369, GtG 700)

Order Form

TITLE	PDS#	QTY	PRICE	SUBTOTAL
2014–2015 Horizons Bible study, Reconciling Paul by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty				
English edition	HZN14100		\$8.00	\$
Ecumenical edition	HZN14102		\$8.00	\$
Spanish edition	HZN14110		\$8.00	\$
Large-print edition	HZN14150		\$12.00	\$
Audio CD edition—slightly abridged version; no Suggestions for Leaders	HZN14172		\$15.00	\$
Companion DVD—Author presenting each lesson on video.	HZN14103		\$20.00	\$
<i>Workshop for Leaders</i> —an introduction to this Bible study (also available as a free download at www.pcusa.org/horizons)	HZN14101		free	
Pendant/charm	HZN14300		\$10.00	\$
Promotional poster	HZN14410		free	
Bulletin cover	Free download only at www.pcusa.org/horizons .			
Subtotal				\$
Sales tax				\$
Add shipping/handling (10% of order total, \$5.25 min., \$65 max.)*				\$
Appropriate sales tax is required for those residents of CA, DC, KY, NY and PA who are ordering on personal accounts. Total				\$

* Subscribe to *Horizons* magazine by April 1, 2015, and receive a copy of next year’s study as part of your subscription! Call toll-free 866/802-3635, or visit www.pcusa.org/horizons.

Complete this order form and mail to
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PDS Prepaid Processing
PO Box 643674
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3674
Or call 800/524-2612

ORDERED BY
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Telephone _____

CREDIT CARD INFO
 Name on credit card _____
 Credit card no. _____
 Expiration date _____
 Visa MasterCard
 American Express Discover
 Signature _____

SHIP TO *(Please use a street address—UPS cannot deliver to a PO box.)*
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Telephone _____

Please use item numbers when ordering. If paying by check, make payable to Presbyterian Women and include with your order. Although not anticipated, prices and availability may change without notice.