

The Cove Church is on a mission to “reach the one.” We have poured our heart and soul into seeing our church take the message of Jesus to more and more people. This week we were able to celebrate what God is doing through Reach and re-examine our commitment to it. In this study we will help uncover what God-assigned area of influence we have each been given to reach.

“But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you.”
2 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)

- What is the most exciting thing you see happening though Reach at The Cove? Why does it get you excited?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 10:13-14.** Who is in your God-assigned area of influence? How do you think God has positioned you to influence them and what can you do to reach them?

Leader Note: Be sure to get your group speaking specifically during this question, and name names. Some people’s area of influence will be wider and some narrower, but each is equally important. Discuss action steps that can be taken. For example, if someone in your group has a friend at work that they have some influence with, they could commit to invite them to church or do something kind for them. Reaching isn’t necessarily leading someone to Christ immediately, but an ongoing commitment to bring people one step closer to him. Unless we are persistent, people in our area of influence may never walk the journey.

- **Read 2 Corinthians 10:15-16.** How does their increasing faith expand their area of influence? How does this expanded influence allow Paul to preach in the next town more effectively? How can the same thing happen in your area of influence?

Leader Note: This is a tricky passage, so be patient with the group as they unpack it. The more faith that grows in the people of Corinth, the more trust they are going to have for Paul. They will begin spreading the word themselves, thereby increasing the area of influence. As that happens, Paul then has the opportunity to go to new towns, standing on the credibility spread by the people of Corinth. In our own areas of influence, when we effectively reach people, they spread the word about what we have done for them giving us more opportunities to reach.

“For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.” 2 Corinthians 10:18 (ESV)

- **Read 2 Corinthians 10:17-18.** How do we know the difference between commending ourselves and being commended by God? How can we know which is happening in our life? What does it mean to be approved?

Leader Note: This is something that is very difficult to judge from the outside as it stems from an attitude of the heart. There are some key indicators, however. Many of the group’s observations will probably come from experience, you can just feel it. However, only you and God really know which one is going on. To be approved by God is to see His stamp on what you are doing. There is confirmation in seeing the results that come. This doesn’t necessarily mean numbers or growth, but a confidence in knowing that “God is doing this and He is getting the credit.”

- Share relationships and opportunities where you personally want to “reach” in your area of influence. Write them down and pray for one another specifically. Pray also for the efforts of the church as we reach together.