

ONE



CORINTHIANS

Life Group Guide
Unit 2

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Week 1 ... March 6

Week 2 ... March 13

Week 3 ... March 20

Week 4 ... April 10

Week 5 ... April 24

Week 6 ... May 1

Week 7 ... May 8

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Week 1 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, March 6

1. What does verse 6 mean? What "wisdom" is imparted to those who are mature? What kind of wisdom is this? Why is it *only* imparted to the mature?
2. What is God's secret wisdom that only the mature will attain? (2:7)
See also Colossians 1:25-27, Ephesians 6:19, and 1 Corinthians 2:8-10.
3. How was Jesus' crucifixion related to the world's lack of understanding God's wisdom? (2:8)
4. What point is Paul making by his quote from the Old Testament in verse 9? See Isaiah 64:4 and 1 Corinthians 2:7. Does it mean that God's wisdom is unknowable?
5. How does Paul say the truth of the gospel is discovered? (2:10-13)
6. Why would someone think that God's wisdom is foolishness? (2:14)
See also 2 Corinthians 4:4.
7. What does it mean that we "have the mind of Christ"? (2:16)

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Week 1 continued

8. What should be our response(s) when we find the teachings of the Scriptures to conflict with the opinions of the world around us? Why?

9. From the references to "wisdom" in this passage what differences do you see between human wisdom and God's? After we know the wisdom of God what should we "do with it"?

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Week 2 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, March 13

1. What would you say is the problem of the Corinthian church in verses 1-3?
2. What does it mean to be "worldly/of the flesh"? (3:1)
3. What is milk? What is solid food? (3:2) Why did Paul still need to give them milk to drink?

For self-reflection: *If Paul were to write to you, do you think he would consider you fleshly and in need of milk, or mature and able to handle solid food?*

4. Since each faction at Corinth considered itself more spiritual than others, how do you think they would have responded to what Paul wrote in verses 1-4?
5. What traits did the Corinthians have that made them worldly? (3:3-5)
6. Do you think the Corinthian problem of seeming "perpetual immaturity" is repeated often in the church today? Why?
7. How was this immaturity exhibited in their life and actions? (3:4)

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8. What part did Paul have in sharing with the Corinthians? How about Apollos? How about God? (3:5-6)

9. What does this teach us about how we should view those who are spiritual leaders in the church? How should this affect our attitude towards ourselves? How should this affect our attitude towards God? (3:7-9)

10. How is the person who plants like the person who waters? (3:8-9)

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Week 3 1 Corinthians 3:10-23 , March 20

1. What does Paul mean he laid a foundation? (3:10) What is the foundation of the church? (3:11)
2. What does the gold, silver and precious stones represent? What do the stones, wood, hay, and straw represent? (3:12)
3. When will our work become evident? (3:13) See also 1 Corinthians 4:5.
4. What will happen to us if all our work is burned up? How about if it survives the test? (3:14-15)
5. How are we a temple of God? (3:16) [Note: the Greek "you" in verses 16-18 is plural.]
6. What does it mean "if any man destroys the temple of God"? What are the consequences of actively harming the church? (3:17)
7. Why does the church matter so much to God?
8. Why should we abandon the world's idea of wisdom? (3:19)

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9. What is the point of verses 18-23?

10. What is the difference between respecting a Christian leader, and the problem Paul deals with here?

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Week 4 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, April 10

1. How did Paul want the Corinthians to regard Christian leaders? (4:1)
2. What does it mean to be a steward? What does it look like to steward the mysteries of God? (4:1)
3. What is the requirement of stewards? (4:2)
4. What does Paul mean in verse 3?
5. Who judges Paul? (4:4)
6. Whose judgment should we be concerned about?
7. Paul exhorts the Corinthians to stop rating and ranking those who were ministering to them. Why shouldn't we do this? (4:3-5)
8. We learn in verse 5 that one day we will be judged by the Lord and all our actions and thoughts, even the hidden ones, will come out. What response should we have to this?
9. What does it do to your confidence when you stop living for the approval of others?

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Week 5 1 Corinthians 4:6-13, April 24

Read 1 Corinthians 4:6-13

1. What is the "all these things" in verse 6?
2. What do you think Paul means by the proverb, "Do not go beyond what is written?" (4:6) How should the Corinthians apply this proverb?
3. In verse 7, what reason does Paul give for them to be humble?
4. Take a moment and review some humble responses from leaders toward God in the Bible:
 - Abraham – Genesis 18:27
 - Jacob – Genesis 32:10
 - John the Baptist – Matthew 3:14, John 3:30
 - Paul – Acts 20:18-19, Ephesians 3:8
5. According to James 4:6, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble? Why do you suppose that is?

Read Mark 9:33-35

6. How does Jesus define greatness?

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7. In what way would you say that Jesus' definition of greatness is different from the world's definition of greatness?

Read Philippians 2:3-8

8. How is Jesus an example of living humbly?

9. In what ways does Paul's life exhibit humility in verses 9-13?

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Week 6 1 Corinthians 4:6-16, May 1

1. How did they act when mistreated? (4:12-13) How do you typically respond when you are mistreated?
2. What contrast does Paul make in verses 9-13? What is his point of making all of these comparisons?
3. Why did Paul rebuke them so sternly? (4:14)
4. What does 4:16 instruct Christians to do? Would you say Paul is boasting here?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-30

5. What comes to your mind as you read all that Paul endured?
6. What do you think is Paul's point in 2 Corinthians 11:24-30? How can this be a challenge to us today, and what lessons should we learn?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-11

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Week 6 continued

7. Is Paul alluding in any of these passages in 1st and 2nd Corinthians that the power of the gospel is in the message or in the messenger? Where else has Paul taught this? See Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 1:18; 4:20.
8. Can you give any modern-day examples of Christians suffering for their faith?
9. What should our response as Christians be in our culture as we face the very real possibility of more and more persecution?

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Week 7 1 Corinthians 4:14-21, May 8

1. Who has been the biggest spiritual influence on your life?
2. In what way had Paul become a father to the Corinthians? (4:15)
3. Why did Paul send Timothy to the Corinthians? (4:17)
4. Why were some of them arrogant according to verse 18?
5. Explain verses 19-20.
6. How is the kingdom of God a "matter of power"? (4:20)
7. What exemplary qualities about Paul should we imitate? How?

For personal reflection: Does your "heart attitude" and way of life indicate that you view yourself as a servant? How faithful have you been with what God has entrusted to you?

8. If possible, share with the group who you would like to make a positive spiritual impact upon.

Notes



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