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SMALL GROUP GUIDE, SECTION 1

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Week 1 ... January 30

Week 2 ... February 6

Week 3 ... February 13

Week 4 ... February 20

Week 5 ... February 27

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Week 1 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, January 30

If you have the ability, your group may consider watching the 9 minute 1 Corinthians overview video on the Bible Project website: bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-corinthians/

Read Acts 18:1-11 to familiarize yourself with some of Paul's activities in Corinth.

1. From what you know, and what you learned during the message this week; how would you describe the city of Corinth?
2. Why would it be important to know about the culture and background of this letter?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

3. How did Paul describe himself? (1:1)
4. Why would Paul stress that he is an apostle?
5. Who might this Sosthenes be? **(Read Acts 18:12-17)**
6. What words of affirmation did Paul have for his readers? (1 Cor. 1:2-3)

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Week 2 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, February 6

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

1. For what traits of the Corinthians did Paul thank God?
2. Why would Paul say so many positive things in verses 4-9 when the Corinthian church was actually all messed up?
3. Who was Paul saying the positive things about? Who is getting the credit?
4. In what ways had the Corinthian Christians been "enriched"? Why? (1:5-6)
5. What does verse 6 mean?
6. What spiritual gifts did the Corinthians have? (1:7)
See 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.
7. Paul assures the Corinthians that their future is secure in Christ. What is the basis of this confidence? (1:8-9) See also Philippians 1:3-6; 2 Timothy 1:12.
8. Would you say that we are to be active or passive partners with God in this process? (See 1 Corinthians 15:58, Jude 1:21, Philippians 2:12-13)

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Week 3 1 Corinthians 1:10-17, February 13

1. Consider the relationships you have with other believers, noting those with different backgrounds. How have those relationships strengthened your spiritual life?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

2. What fundamental problem is Paul addressing in vv. 10-16? What change does he want them to make?
3. On what basis did Paul appeal to the Corinthian believers? (1:10)
4. Why did Paul ask the Corinthians to agree with one another? (1:10)
5. What specific problem were the Corinthian Christians having? (1:11-12)
6. How does Paul undercut these divisions that have risen up? (1:13-17)
7. Why is Paul glad he didn't baptize many of the people? (1:13-15)
8. What's wrong with preaching the gospel with "words of human wisdom"? (1:17)
9. Does the church in our culture today face the same problems as Paul addressed in this letter? If so, what does this look like, and how could we apply Paul's remedy?

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Week 4 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, February 20

1. What contemporary figures does the world consider to be wise?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

2. To whom is the message of the Cross foolishness? (1:18) Why is the cross foolish to them?

3. To whom is the message of the Cross powerful? (1:18) Why do Christians see the cross as powerful?

4. How does the message of the Cross contrast with what most people consider wise? (1:18-19)

5. What makes the difference with those who are called? Why is it wisdom to us and not others? Are we just smarter?

6. How does the Cross destroy the wisdom of men? (1:19-21)

7. Why is Christ crucified a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Greeks? Why the different words? (1:22)

8. In what ways is the cross of Christ divisive in our world today? In what ways is it a stumbling block and foolishness for people today? (1:23)

9. How does this passage describe those whom God typically calls to Himself? In light of this, what should be our attitude? (1:26-29)

10. What kind of boasting is good? (1:31)

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Week 5 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, February 27

Read 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

1. What four terms does Paul use to describe what Christ is for those who trust Him? (1:30)

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

2. How should this contrast between "foolishness" and "wisdom" affect the way we communicate the gospel? How should it affect our goals and priorities?
3. How did Paul's regard for the world's wisdom affect his preaching and testimony? (2:1-5)
4. What did Paul focus on when he originally went to the Corinthian church? (2:2)
5. What do you think Paul means in verse 3?
6. What does it mean to preach with a "demonstration of the Spirit's power"? (2:4)
7. Why did Paul not come to them with persuasive words or clever speech? (2:5)
8. Do you aspire to be viewed in the way that Paul describes himself in this passage? Why or why not?

Notes



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