



Week of January 14
1 Corinthians 1:22-25; Psalm 118:20-23; 1 Pet 2:4-7 ¹

Overview

Paul's letter to the Corinthians addresses needs and problems specific to that local church. But for a 2000-year-old letter, many of the topics will ring true to us today as well. Cultural diversity and religious pluralism were obvious in 1st Century Corinth and are also rampant in our 21st century world. Paul cares deeply about both right living and right thinking for Christians, and so should we. Read the letter with a view toward Paul's primary purposes: the health and "building up" of the body of Christ, and actions which further of the gospel. Keeping these themes in mind will help you understand the "why" behind Paul's guidance and admonitions to the Corinthian Christians.

Group Objectives

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purposes of community groups.

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members...how can you "build one another up" this week?
- Pray for God's call to reach your "one more."

DNA statement(s) tie-in

- ***We are On Mission to Reach One More.*** Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to **reach one more** – one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.
- ***We are All for Jesus.*** Jesus saves us from our past, remakes us to be like him, heals our broken places, and is coming back as our king. Only Jesus is worthy of our allegiance, and worldly division has no place for those who follow him.

Conversation Starters

- What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
- Tell us about a time when you gave an answer that you thought was "wise." To what or whom did you attribute your wisdom?

Listening to God

- Where did you experience God last week?
- How were you able to join God on mission?

¹ This discussion guide was written by Dawn Gentry and edited by Rachel Vaughn. For more background information on the book of 1 Corinthians, see the Reading Plan available [here](#).

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

As Paul continues addressing the problem of division in the Corinthian church, he compares the “wisdom of the world” with what some might see as the “foolishness” of the cross. Indeed, this section (1:18 through 2:16) may well set up the rest of this letter.² What the Corinthians considered “wisdom” (rhetorical eloquence, advanced learning, even “special knowledge” from God) is worth nothing compared to the scandalous reality of Jesus’ crucifixion on the cross.³

Read 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

- What stood out to you from these verses as we read them?
- Why do you think Jews might have thought of the crucifixion as a “stumbling block”?
 - How might someone today see the crucifixion as a stumbling block? How can Paul’s teaching in this passage help them see Jesus’ gift in a new light?
- If you think of the crucifixion as “the weakness of God” (verse 25), how could you also describe it as “stronger than human strength”?

Read Psalm 118:20-23 and 1 Pet 2:4-10

- What stood out to you from these verses as we read them?
- What is the purpose of a cornerstone?⁴
 - How might you compare or contrast that definition with a “stumbling block”?
- In 1 Peter 2:7-8, Peter seems to allude to Jesus **as both** a “cornerstone” and a “stone that causes people to stumble.” How can he be both?
 - What causes people to stumble, according to this passage?
- How might understanding today’s passages help you depend more fully on Jesus?
 - How might it help you relate to someone who doesn’t yet follow Jesus? (cf Romans 14:13)
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to these passages?
 - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?

Reach One More Practice

- This week, pray specifically that your “one more” would not find anything about the gospel to be a “stumbling block.”
- What are you learning about yourself in this season?
 - What are you learning about God?

Prayer Prompts

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompts.
 - *Jesus, you are the cornerstone of my life. Help me to trust you completely.*

For further study

- For more about the **Reach One More** initiative, see www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org
- Bible Project Videos: Guide to 1st Corinthians:
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1corinthians/>
- NT Wright, *1 Corinthians* (NT Wright For Everyone commentary series)
- Ben Witherington, *A Week in the Life of Corinth*

² Lee Patmore, “Wisdom of the Wise,” in *Engaging Paul in 1 Corinthians* (CWP Press, 2015), 66.

³ Ben Witherington III, *Conflict and Community in Corinth* (Eerdmans, 1995), 108-09.

⁴ See <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/cornerstone>, especially the 3rd and 4th definitions.