



Week of March 31
1 Corinthians 16:1-24¹

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 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?
- What is your favorite tradition when visiting family or friends? Why?

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 Elaine Rodeck and edited by Dawn Gentry. For additional content, see the [sermon online](#) and the reading plan [found here](#).

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

Paul concludes the final chapter of 1 Corinthians by addressing the Corinthian church about a wide variety of spiritual and practical matters. Paul addresses the collection for the Saints, followed by travel plans, instructions for when Timothy comes to see them, final exhortations, and closing greetings. Paul closes the letter by expressing his love for the Corinthian church in Christ Jesus.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-24

- What stood out to you from these verses as we read them?
- How might this text have challenged the Corinthians?
- What do you find most confusing about this text?
- Why does Paul specifically mention Timothy in verses 10 and 11?
- Please re-read verses 13 and 14
 - How might these verses cause you to rethink your thoughts, actions, attitude?
 - Consider memorizing Paul's closing exhortation:

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this passage?
 - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?

Reach One More Practice

- How can you show the love of Jesus to your "one more"?
- Pray for doors to open for spiritual conversations.
 - Next week, share how you saw God at work.
- 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.
 - *Holy Spirit, please show me how to live like Jesus, proclaiming the Gospel, putting the needs of others first, and living in the power of the resurrection. Amen.*

For further study

- For more about the **Reach One More** initiative, see www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org.
- For practical ideas you can implement as you reach one more, see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzdVE7HNsqM-FEzli5Etuzj379W7kUsxO>
- Bible Project Videos: Guide to 1st Corinthians: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-corinthians/>
- Right Now Media Series – "Bible Backroads" – great background on Corinth, suitable for families: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/806863>
- Ben Witherington, *A Week in the Life of Corinth*
- NT Wright, *1 Corinthians* (N. T. Wright *For Everyone* commentary series)
- Anthony Thiselton, *1 Corinthians: A Shorter Exegetical and Pastoral Commentary*

Some copies of these books may be available at the CCC resource booth to purchase on-site.