

1 CORINTHIANS | DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE



INTRODUCTION | 1 CORINTHIANS

It has been said that the first letter from the Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth is written in typical “Pauline” fashion, summarizing it in the following order:

1. I thank God for you.
2. Hold fast to the Gospel, my dear brothers.
3. For the love of everything that is holy, please stop being stupid.
4. Also, Timothy says “Hi.”

The church in Corinth was both a troubled church and a very gifted church. Paul writes to them in order to address, correct, and teach on the foundations of a healthy church. Paul is convinced that a foundational understanding of gospel doctrine leads to confessional devotion. It is what we preach regularly at Storehouse McAllen: what we believe shapes how we live.

The church in Corinth experienced great trouble because they wanted to fold the life of the world into their own lives and worship, greatly affecting and abusing the doctrines of God, the practice of holiness, and a love for one another.

In our study of 1 Corinthians, we will be challenged not simply doctrinally, but devotionally. Though we experience external temptation from the world (*1 John. 2:15*), it is not our chief problem. It is the internal that affects us greatly (*1 John. 2:16*) and how we relate to one another and to those who do not know Jesus.

It is for this reason why we’re tackling 1 Corinthians: to be reminded that we are only as strong as the foundation that we stand upon, the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that we are humbled, sanctified, and challenged as a church in our study of this beautiful letter.

For His glory,

Pastor Marco De Leon

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BACKGROUND

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While on his third missionary journey, the apostle Paul wrote the letter of 1 Corinthians to a fractioned church in the city of Corinth in Ancient Greece around A.D. 54. Paul had planted the church in Corinth on his second missionary journey (*Acts 17:16-18:17*). After receiving both a concerning report about the church from “Chloe’s people” (v. 11) and a letter from the Corinthians themselves asking Paul various questions (7:1), Paul penned this letter to respond to a host of issues.

Much has been written about the city of ancient Corinth. Originally it was a Greek city in line with the so-called “Achaean league,” but it was destroyed by the Roman, Mummius, in 146 B.C. After almost 100 years of the city being left mostly desolate, it was reestablished as a Roman colony by Julius Caesar in 44 B.C. By the time Paul arrived at Corinth in approximately 50 A.D. The city was at the height of its glory. As with most other Roman colonies, it had essentially become a little Rome, full of its grandeur and enticements.

Corinth was well known for its immorality. In the ancient world, to “Corinthianize” became synonymous with the act of fornication, and Plato created the euphemism “Corinthian girl” for a prostitute. With this in mind, it is less surprising that sexual immorality was among the issues that Paul addresses in 1 Corinthians (5:1-13). Additionally, Corinth was well known for its “Isthmian games,” which were athletic competitions very similar to those of the Olympics. This is likely why Paul uses athletic imagery in *1 Corinthians 9:24-28*.

One of the main problems with this church is that they thought and acted just like the pagan world around them (3:3). They were divided amongst themselves based upon certain leaders and personalities (1-4); they were proud of explicit sexual immorality within the church (5); they were taking other church members to court (6); they were causing one another to stumble when it came to food sacrificed to idols (8-10); and they were divisive when it came to the gifts of the Spirit and how those gifts related to the gathered body (12-14).

In other words, this church had so many issues that one wonders why any modern church would want to be named after it. Yet Paul, under the Holy Spirit’s inspiration, is going to address each of these issues throughout this wonderful letter. Furthermore, Paul gives us added doctrinal clarity on a host of other topics, including sanctification (1:2), godly leadership in the church (3-4), church discipline (5), navigating conscience issues within the church (8-10), singleness and marriage (7), principles for Christian giving and generosity (9), the Lord’s Supper (11), proper use of spiritual gifts within the church (12-14), and the resurrection of Christ (15).

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

What Is A Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of people that meet weekly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community Groups (CGs) serve as the main vehicle of discipleship and care at Storehouse Community Church. In short, our CGs are a family of disciples making disciples of Jesus in ordinary life.

Each CG is unique and shaped by the people who attend and the city they meet in. At the heart of each CG is a desire to gather as family and friends, grow in our relationship with Jesus, and go into our cities on mission.

Why Should I Join A Community Group?

The Bible teaches us that God is relational, personal, and invested which, in turn, means that we are created for friendship and community. It is in community where we flourish through relationship and challenge. CGs are more than a weekly event, but a time to grow and cultivate a relationship with God and others.

Where Do Community Groups Meet?

CGs are strategically planted throughout McAllen and its surrounding cities in an effort to engage our city and community. Whether meeting at a home, local coffee shop, or college campus, we desire to see every aspect of our cities blessed by God's people.

How Do I Get Connected?

There are two ways that you can get connected: you can visit our Connect desk on Sunday and our volunteers will help you through the process or you can visit storehousemcallen.com/community to learn more and sign up!

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RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

1. [Exalting Jesus in 1 Corinthians by Daniel Akin](#)

"*Exalting Jesus in 1 Corinthians* is part of the *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary* series. Edited by David Platt, Daniel L. Akin, and Tony Merida, this commentary series takes a Christ-centered approach to expositing each book of the Bible. Each chapter explains and applies key passages, providing helpful outlines for study and teaching."

2. [What Is a Healthy Church Member? By Thabiti M. Anyabwile](#)

"God intends for us to play an active and vital part in the body of Christ, the local church. He wants us to experience the local church as a home more profoundly wonderful and meaningful than any other place on earth. He intends for his churches to be healthy places and for the members of those churches to be healthy as well. This book explains how membership in the local church can produce spiritual growth in its members and how each member can contribute to the growth and health of the whole."

3. [Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners](#)

"In this book, Dane Ortlund points believers to Christ, making the case that sanctification does not happen by doing more or becoming better, but by going deeper into the wondrous gospel truths that washed over them when they were first united to him. Drawing on wisdom from figures throughout church history, Ortlund encourages readers to fix their gaze on Jesus in the battle against sin, casting themselves upon his grace and living out their invincible identity in Christ."

KIDS RESOURCES

1. [The Mind Muddler: A Rescue Tale from Our Tangled-up Thinking about God, the World and Ourselves](#) -

A useful tool for aiding gospel-centered conversations with children, *The Mind Muddler* takes them through a big-picture tour of the whole Bible and reveals that the good news of the gospel is that God doesn't just show us the brokenness of our mess—he mends it!

2. [His Grace is Enough: How God Makes It Right When We've Got It Wrong](#) - Explain the transformative

message of God's grace and forgiveness to your 3- to 8-year-olds! Melissa Kruger's rhyming text is ideal, whether you're sharing the heart of the Christian faith with kids for the first time or reminding little ones that we can always run to Jesus when we mess up.

3. [Faith Builder Catechism: Devotions to Level Up Your Family Discipleship](#) - Authors Kevin Hippolyte,

Jared Kennedy, and Trey Kullman lead the way for families to establish regular discipleship conversations and cultivate a deeper knowledge of the theology expressed in the Apostle's Creed, the Ten Commandments, the doctrines of grace, the Great Commission, and the Lord's Prayer.

4. [Tiny Theologians Podcast](#) - This adventure podcast for kids is fun, upbeat, and rich with biblical theology. Each week, kids can join TJ and Tory as they adventure through the attributes of God. Listen wherever you get your podcasts!

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DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK ONE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

DISCUSSION

- Theologians make a distinction between the “universal” church and the “local” church. Using *1 Corinthians 1:2*, what does Paul say the “universal” church is? What then, is the “local” church?
- Though the church in Corinth was plagued by the problems of division, sexual immorality, and false doctrines, Paul also mentioned that they were spiritually gifted (*1:4-7*). What does this teach us about God’s grace in imparting spiritual gifts?
- When you sin, do you feel cast aside by God? How does *1 Corinthians 1:7-9* provide encouragement during times of guilt and shame?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Discussion:** Paul stresses the importance of being Jesus-centered. He mentions the name Jesus 9 times in verses 1-9. How can we live a life that is centered on Christ our Savior? What does that look like in school? Work? When we are out with family or friends?
- **Discussion:** Verses 4-9 Paul thanks God for the gifts and blessings that God has given to the church. Talk to your children about their special gifts and skills and how they can use them for the glory of God.
- **Activity:** Based on the teachings from *1 Corinthians 1:1-9*, have the children create a "Gratitude and Talents Tree" craft. This activity combines the concepts of gratitude, community, and recognizing individual talents, as discussed in the verses. Materials: A large poster board or a roll of butcher paper, markers, crayons, or colored pencils, construction paper in various colors, scissors, glue or tape. **Steps:** **1.** Draw a large tree with many branches on the poster board or butcher paper. This represents the community and togetherness theme. **2.** Cut out leaf shapes from construction paper. Ask each child to write something they are thankful for on a leaf. This could be family, friends, a pet, a favorite toy, etc. It's a way to express gratitude, as Paul did for the Corinthians. **3.** Alongside the leaves, add fruits (like apples or oranges made from construction paper). On these fruits, children can write or draw a talent or skill they possess or are developing. This is to acknowledge and celebrate individual gifts and talents. **4.** Add small flower shapes to represent patience and anticipation. On each flower, children can write or draw something they are looking forward to or hoping for. **5.** Have the children attach their leaves, fruits, and flowers to the tree. As they do this, they can share what they've written or drawn, fostering a sense of community and sharing.

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DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TWO

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

DISCUSSION

- Read *1 Corinthians 1:10*. In your own words, define “unity” and how it is different from “uniformity.”
- As a result of following different people, the Corinthian church was divided in a contentious manner (*1 Cor. 1:12-13*). In your past experience, have you been involved in a divided church? If so, how has that impacted the way you view The Church?
- Church division can occur when a group of people feel “superior” than others for a variety of reasons (e.g., serving ability, “seniority,” “spirituality,” etc.). How does *Galatians 3:28* dispel that type of thinking?
- Not only does The Church unite us with Christ, but it unites us with one another (*Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:27*). How well do you fellowship with other members of the local church? Has it been difficult? If so, why?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Discussion:** What makes a happy family? Talk about the word “unity” and how Paul is encouraging, and even urging, the church of Corinth to not have any divisions amongst themselves. How can we show unity in our own family? How can we show unity in our home church?
- **Activity:** Make a paper chain by handing out to each person in your family a slip of paper. Have them write how they can grow in unity with one another at home or at church. Then connect all the papers with each other to create a unity chain.
- **Memory Verse:** *John 18:23* “I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

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DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK THREE

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

DISCUSSION

- In what ways do people today regard Christianity as foolish? Why?
- What are some challenges you've encountered while sharing the gospel? What has been encouraging?
- Paul mentions that he did not proclaim the gospel with "lofty speech or wisdom." Why is this important?
- What are some ways you have been tempted to use articulate language or rely only on your intelligence to share the gospel?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Activity:** Draw a picture of or write the name of each of the following ways to get wisdom—Bible, parents, pastor, godly Christians, prayer—on an index card or piece of paper. Hide these when your kids are not looking. Ask: Where can you find wisdom? Instruct the kids to search for five cards (hidden around the room) that tell how to get wisdom. After you have found them, let each child read his card and tell how one can gain wisdom from them. Read Proverbs 2:1-6 aloud to see what Solomon (one of the wisest men who ever lived) said about finding wisdom. Encourage your kids to look in the Bible or ask God for wisdom or ask you or another godly person when they want to know the right thing to do.
- **Discussion:** In *1 Corinthians 2:2*, Paul says "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (ESV) Let those words sink in for a minute. What does it mean to know nothing except Jesus Christ? How does knowing that Christ died for our sins change how we live and treat others?
- **Pray This Verse Over Your Family:** "...so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." *1 Corinthians 2:5*.

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DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK FOUR

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

DISCUSSION

- Read *1 Corinthians 2:7*. What does it mean that “we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God”? What is this secret and hidden wisdom?
- Read *Psalms 139:1-12*. God is omniscient, which means he is all-knowing. What is comforting about the Spirit searching and knowing everything? In contrast, what can be frightening about this truth?
- Why is it necessary for us to rely on the Spirit’s wisdom and not our own?
- What does it mean to have “the mind of Christ”?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Discussion:** v 7-8 “but we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” What was the secret and hidden wisdom of God? Why is it wise for us to know that Jesus came and died for our sins and resurrected on the third day? How can we live this out?
- **Activity:** Hang up a picture of Jesus in a room and set up a spotlight underneath that is pointed directly at the picture. Speak to your kids about the Holy Spirit’s role in bringing people to Jesus. Turn off the lights and make sure the room is very dark. Have everyone name something about the picture of Jesus that they like. They may mention that they can’t see the picture. Click on the spotlight and then have everyone name something about the picture they like. Explain to them that the Holy Spirit is like the spotlight, pointing everyone to Jesus.
- **Sing Together:** [“God Gives Us The Holy Spirit”](#) by Austin Stone Worship

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DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK FIVE

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

DISCUSSION

- One thing that leads to division in the church is immaturity in the gospel. How have you been trying to grow deeper in your knowledge and understanding of the gospel?
- As Christians, we still act in a human way or “in the flesh” (v.3). Why is it important to keep this in mind as we follow Jesus, and what should be our response when we find areas of our lives that are “of the flesh”? Be specific.
- What’s the difference between human or Godly wisdom, and how do we know that we’re operating from one instead of the other?
- Are there any areas of your life that you tend to give too much weight to human wisdom? What are they?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Discuss Together:** How would you define jealousy and strife? Paul is stressing that the Corinthians’ behavior and attitude towards each other doesn’t match the faith they received from God. What do we give up on or lose sight of when we keep a jealous or prideful attitude? How do *James 1:14-5*, *Proverbs 14:30*, *Psalms 119:37* help us turn from our envy and strife, and turn towards the gospel of Jesus?
- **Activity:** What can make the seed grow? Supplies include several small pots filled with soil, a cup of water, and seeds of any kind. Have each child or family member share in the description of *1 Corinthians 3:5-9* for planting and watering. Tell how God is the one who assigned each of us to share His good news, and He is the one who grows us all by His Word with one another (in community/His church). All of us are like these seeds. Someone has to plant seeds, water the seeds and take care of the plants. But the plants, like us, can only grow with God's help. He is the source of the strength, care, and wisdom we need to grow in living more like Jesus.
- **Memorize & Sing Together:** *Colossians 2:6-7* | [Walk In Him \(Hand Motions\)](#) “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

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DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK SIX

1 Corinthians 4:1-21

DISCUSSION

- Read *1 Corinthians 4:1-5*. Discuss what “judging” means in the Bible (*Matt. 7:1-5; John 7:24*). Should Christians judge others? Should we care about what people think of us as Christians?
- Paul uses sarcasm to prove that at the foot of the cross lie those who are shamed, brutalized, and marginalized for the sake of Christ (*1 Corinthians 4:8-13*). Do you find yourself living in a comfortable and convenient Christianity? How can we guard ourselves from living in this manner?
- What is the importance of discipleship in the church (*1 Corinthians 4:14-21*)?
- How do you respond when other Christian’s correct you regarding a sin you’ve committed?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Discussion:** What does a judge do? What does it take to be a good judge? Why is it good news that God is our judge? (See *Isaiah 33:22, Deut. 32:4*).
- **Discussion:** Paul says that God will “bring to light what is hidden in the dark.” He isn’t talking about seeing things in the daylight when the sun comes up. He also isn’t talking about seeing things in the dark with a flashlight. What is Paul helping the Corinthians understand what God brings to light in them? (See *Proverbs 4:23, Luke 6:35, and Psalm 139:1*)
- **Pray Together:** Dear Father, thank you that you are the one true judge - not others and not even ourselves. Thank you for being loving and just by sending Your Son to take the punishment of sin at the cross, so that we could have new hearts. Please help us by Your Spirit, to love you and seek to serve you with our whole heart everyday. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

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DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK SEVEN

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

DISCUSSION

- Instead of rebuking the man who slept with his step-mother, the Corinthians overlooked this man's sin (*1 Corinthians 5:1-3*). Have you ever ignored the sins of those around you for certain reasons? If so, how do you feel after not confronting them about their sin?
- "Excommunication" is the word used when a local church removes a person from its membership due to their habitual and unrepentant sin (*Matt. 18:15-17*). Though this is the final step in the church discipline process, why might this be necessary (*1 Cor. 5:5-8*)?
- Paul talks very severely about those within the church who practice sexual immorality among other sins (*1 Cor. 5:11-13*). Why do you think there is a higher accountability for those who are in the church as opposed to those who are not believers? What makes sexual immorality, in particular, so bad?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Activity:** Take a glass of water and add just one drop of food coloring. The one drop of food coloring seems like "no big deal," but it makes a big difference in the water! Once the food coloring is in the water, is it possible to remove it? How is this like giving in to temptation that seems like "no big deal"? What is something you've been thinking or doing that is "no big deal" to you, but is a big deal to God?
- **Discussion:** What are some rules your parents have for you to obey? What's helpful or good about having these rules? What are the consequences if you disobey? Why does God want His people to be reminded about and walk through church discipline?
- **Pray Together:** God, help us take our sin seriously. We know our sin puts us in opposition to You, so we pray that You will open our eyes to look to the cross. Surround us with other believers who can support and help us grow in our relationship to You. We desire to please You and ask You to forgive us for the sins we've committed, especially the ones believed as "no big deal." Thank you for Jesus, who took on my sin and gave me His righteousness. Thank you for giving the Holy Spirit, who helps me live in newness each day in faith and Your truth. Help Your church grow in knowing and living like Jesus. Amen.