

INTRODUCTION | 1 CORINTHIANS

It has been said that Paul first letter 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.

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 Jn. 2:15), it is not our chief problem. It is the internal that affects us greatly (1 Jn. 2:16), how we relate to one another, and to those who do not know Jesus.

It is for these reasons 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

BACKGROUND

Written By: W. Tyler Sykora

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).

COMMUNITY GROUPS

What Is A Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings that meet weekly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community Groups (CGs) are the main avenue of discipleship and care at Storehouse Community Church.

Our CGs are a family of disciples making disciples of Jesus in ordinary life together.

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. In community, we flourish by being known and being challenged. CGs are more than a weekly event, but a time where we grow to better know and live like Jesus.

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 <u>storehousemcallen.com/discipleship</u> to learn more and sign up!

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. The Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts by Sam Storms

"In The Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts, Sam Storms will help you answer basic and foundational questions about the what, why, and how of the unique gifts God gives to each of His children. You will discover the purpose of spiritual gifts in the Church and learn how to identify your special mix of gifting. In addition, you will find out how the Holy Spirit uses the supernatural manifestation of gifts to demonstrate God's presence and power among His people."

3. The Character of The Church: The Marks of God's Obedient People by Joe Thorn

"Is it 'where three or more are gathered'? Is it songs and a sermon on Sunday? Does it require structure and leadership? How do you know? *The Character of the Church* dispels confusion by describing the five elements of a biblical church." Author Joe Thorn "teaches God's design for church so you know what to look for in one."

4. The Life of The Church: The Table, Pulpit, & Square by Joe Thorn

"Look at your church's calendar and you will learn something of its mission. But how do you know it's the mission Jesus gave? In *The Life of the Church*, Joe Thorn explains the mission of the church and the three rhythms for fulfilling it. The result is a simple, memorable model for church life and ministry, grounded in Scripture and aligned with historic practices."

5. The Heart of The Church: The Gospel's History, Message, & Meaning by Joe Thorn

"Every church has a driving confession, but what is the confession of a true and biblical church? *The Heart of the Church* answers with the gospel. It explains the story of the gospel, its basic doctrines, and God's work in salvation. Fresh yet consistent with classic expressions, it helps churches reclaim their essential identity and return from distracting pursuits."

KIDS RESOURCES

- 1. God Rescues Me By Kristen Wetherell Everyone is a theologian—even your little one. Each board book in the For the Bible Tells Me So series offers kids ages 0–4 an introduction to key facets of the gospel and a glimpse at the joy found when children embrace Christ as their Lord and Savior. In God Rescues Me, kids will learn how Jesus—through a sacrificial life of love—saves his people from their sins.
- 2. <u>The Church By Devon Provencher</u> Teach kids ages 1-5 about the beauty of meeting together and worshiping regularly as God's family with a fun, illustrated board book that clearly explains the core elements and practices of the church.
- 3. God Made Me For Worship: Helping Children Understand Church by Jared Kennedy The author guides parents to help their kids understand why we're intentional about worship, encouraging them to engage—not just to manage behavior during a worship gathering, and invites children to respond to God along with the whole church body.
- 4. God Made Me for Heaven: Helping Children Live for an Eternity with Jesus by Marty Machowski In God Made Me for Heaven, Marty Machowski shares deep theological truths through a creative story. Told through the perspective of a grandmother sharing her hope of heaven to her grandchildren and their friends, this picture book beautifully illustrated by Trish Mahoney includes a gospel presentation and speaks about eternity in simple language kids ages 5-9 can understand.
- The Really Radical Book for Kids: More Truth, More Fun by Champ Thornton The Really Radical Book for Kids continues the exciting dive into the roots of the Christian faith started in The Radical Book for Kids.
 More Bible exploration, more history, and more faith-filled direction for how to live as a believer in the here and now.
- 6. <u>Defend Your Faith Sampler</u> to <u>Defend Your Faith: 100 Day Devotional for Kids by Jesse Florea</u> Why do you believe in God? Answering that question might seem hard, but it's important. And this book can help. This introduction to apologetics offers one hundred devotions that will give you real tools and real answers for why you believe in God and why you trust the Bible. You'll dig in the dirt to uncover archaeological evidence. You'll be inspired by stories of real-life defenders of the faith, and you'll see God's fingerprints all over creation. So ask the hard questions. Find the answers. And be empowered to defend your faith.



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?

- **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:

 Draw a large tree with many branches on the poster board or butcher paper. This represents the community and togetherness theme.
 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.
 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.
 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.
 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.



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?

- **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."



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?

- 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.



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 *Psalm 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"?

- **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



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?

- **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*, *Psalm 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."



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?

- **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.



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?

- 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.



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK EIGHT

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

DISCUSSION

- The Corinthians would frequently take their fellow brothers and sisters to court because of minor disputes (1 Cor. 6:1). The issue was not the legal system, but rather the Corinthians' inability to resolve these issues amongst each other due to their posture of disunity. Why is it vital for the Church to learn how to resolve in-house disputes? What should the Church's posture be towards conflict resolution (Gal. 6:1; James 1:19-20, 4:10; Eph. 4:31-32)?
- Paul admonishes the Corinthians for going to a judge that "[has] no standing in the church" as opposed to the people of God to settle their disputes (1 Cor. 6:4-6). Similarly, we can do the same with our unbelieving friends. Though at times our unbelieving friends can give good advice, why is it essential to prioritize discernment and direction from the community of God? Is it more difficult for you to approach the community of God than your unbelieving friends? Why or why not?
- After listing nine groups of individuals who will not inherit the kingdom of God due to their unrepentant and habitual sin (1 Cor. 6:9-10), Paul reminds the Corinthians that at one time they were categorized in those groups, but since have been saved by Jesus (1 Cor. 6:11). To illustrate their salvation, Paul uses words such as "washed", "sanctified", and "justified" (1 Cor. 6:11). To the best of your ability, define each word and describe how they are different from each other.

- Watch <u>Children's Video Skit</u> for 1 Corinthians 6:1-8. When have you ever fought out of greed, pride, or entitlement? How did God's grace show us how to confront conflict?
- Search and Discuss Together What does the Bible say about being washed, sanctified, and justified? See Acts 22:16, 1 John 1:7, 1 Cor. 1:2, 30, Rom. 3:24-26, 4:5. What do those actions done by Jesus have to do with God's kingdom?
- Sing and Memorize together <u>Colossians 1:13-14</u> "For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins."



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK NINE

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

DISCUSSION

- The doctrine of Christian liberty teaches that in Christ we are free to enjoy all that God has created (art, music, food, beverages, nature, electronics, apparel...etc.). Though we have freedom to take part of these privileges, we should always be cautious to not fall into sin. In addition, we should also be cautious to not make other people stumble into sin. Considering 1 Corinthians 6:12, how does this verse protect us when navigating through issues of Christian liberty?
- The Corinthians believed that their bodies served no purpose outside of this life. As a result, they would often give themselves up to the pleasures of the world (1 Cor. 6:13). However, Paul assured them that God would "raise [them] up by His power" in the same way "God raised the Lord" (1 Cor. 6:14). How should this truth of our bodily resurrection influence the way we live today?
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:17 and 12:12-20. In your own words, define what the doctrine of Union with Christ is. What are some practical ways we can demonstrate the spiritual reality of our Union with Christ with our brothers and sisters at Storehouse?
- In your own opinion, why is sexual sin so dangerous? In what ways can we honor God with our bodies, considering that they are meant for the Lord (1 Cor. 6:19-20)?

- Sing Together 1 Corinthians 6:20 Sing Along, and Not Your Own
- How does knowing that you are bought for a price help you better care for your body and spirit?
- Memory Verse Activity A) Hand Molds or Foot Prints: Use playdough or modeling clay or another product that will allow you to make a mold of each child's hand or feet. Once the mold is made and dry, children can write 1 Corinthians 6:20 on it. Or, use paint to cover the palm of each child's hand and make a print of their hand on a piece of paper. Have them write the key verse around their hand print. B) Materials: Paper, scissors, glue, markers Instructions: 1. Use a long piece of paper that can be folded 15 times (like an accordion). 2. On the front of the folded paper, draw a picture of a person. 3. Cut out the figure (with the paper folded). Make sure to not cut along the folded edges. The hands and the feet will connect all of the figures. 4. Open the folded paper and write each word of the Bible verse on each one of the people. 5. Hang on the wall, and say the verse together!



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TEN

1 Corinthians 7:1-24

DISCUSSION

- Is sexual temptation a good reason to get married? Consider *Proverbs 5:15*.
- Read *verses 3-4*. What does a God-glorifying marriage that has equality and is reciprocal and mutual look like?
- What could the distinction between the "gift of singleness" and the "gift of contentment" look like? Why do you think this is an important distinction?
- One of the main themes in this passage is contentment. What is the role of contentment in marriage? What about in singleness?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

PARENTS

- How are you teaching your kids explicitly and implicitly about marriage and singleness? What encouragement do you get from Paul in this text?
- How can you talk to your kids about not just the prohibitions relating to sex (don't have sex outside of marriage) but also about the goodness of sex according to God's design?
- What questions and goals do you have regarding teaching your kids about sex, singleness, and marriage?
- How are you equipping your children to fight against sexual immorality in their own lives?
- Sing and Memorize together <u>2 Peter 1:3</u> Life & Godliness
- Prayer God, would you please keep showing us how to live as Christ-like examples to our children, in humility and grace. May our own perceptions, circumstances, and expectations around marriage and singleness be renewed by your Spirit to teach Your truth faithfully to the next generation. Holy Spirit, help our hearts grow in contentment with the gifts You've given us to live in, for Your glory and our good.



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK ELEVEN

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

DISCUSSION

- What advantages are there to singleness? What "worldly troubles" can come with marriage?
- In what ways do our marriages hold us back from our service to Christ and the Kingdom?
- Everything from marriage, sorrow, joy, and possessions will pass away one day. We must consider the things above, Paul writes elsewhere. Our eternal security informs our present responsibility. What do we need to change in order to align our affections correctly for Christ and His kingdom? In what ways are you seeking after your own satisfactions in the world instead of in Christ? Be specific.

- Search and discuss together: How do 1 Peter 4:7, 22-25, 1 John 2:16-17, and Psalm 39 help direct (and redirect) our hearts to understand what is and isn't passing away in this world?
- Why does Paul not want the Corinthians to be anxious? What things stop us from loving God and living like Jesus with all of our emotions, choices, and passion? Is it possible to love God with our actions and words, but not with our heart?
- Prayer God, I thank you for helping me trust in Your mercy. You gave a sinner like me the greatest gift that I didn't deserve, salvation through Jesus Christ. I confess I have let my anxious and troubling thoughts about (name any area of dissatisfaction or worry) and forgotten about You. I repent of my complaining and fretfulness. Thank you for kindly leading me to repent of my sin. Holy Spirit, Keep helping me grow in godly desires and passions, through every season of life, that focus on Christ and His everlasting kingdom.



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TWELVE

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

DISCUSSION

- How can knowledge become an idol? How does its idolatry affect the church community?
- Read Romans 14:13-21. What is the connection with this text?
- What does this passage teach us about loving our neighbor?
- Knowledge, conscience, and love are vital concepts for making decisions. How can you use these things to build one another up?

- Discuss Together Have you ever known someone who was a "know-it-all" and always acted smart? How
 does it feel to be around such people? How does knowledge without love lead to pride? Why do you think
 it's important for our faith to be rooted in love for God and others?
- Activity "Don't Be Puffed Up Mobile" Materials needed: paper plates, construction paper or cardstock, puffy elements (ex: cotton balls, pom poms, puffed cereal, etc), scissors, glue or tape, string or yarn, hole punch. Instructions: 1) Decorate the paper with verses and captions reflecting the element of the verse "knowledge puffs up". 2) Add the puffy elements to the paper by gluing or taping them down. 3) On the plate, add a paper or drawn heart and verses or captions to emphasize the "love builds up" verse. 4) Attach the plate to the paper with a string or yarn. Hang as decoration to remember that knowledge is somewhat useful, but God's love is the most important thing.
- Discuss Together People around us today might not worship <u>idols</u> of wood or stone, but what are some things we place a lot of value in? How does the gospel of Jesus help us value His love more than the idols in our life?
- Can you think of something you might need to give up so that someone might know and live more like Jesus?
- Sing together 1 Corinthians 8:6 (feat. Joel Limpic)



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK THIRTEEN

1 Corinthians 9:1-27

DISCUSSION

- Paul writes that he would rather endure anything than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ (v.12). What kinds of things might try to be obstacles to the gospel (i.e. remember chapter 8 Christian liberty, sin, moral issues, relational conflict, anger, unforgiveness, etc.)
- Paul boasts in the gospel (vv. 15-18). What might it look like to boast in this way, rather than in yourself? Are you inclined to boast about your sacrifices for the church/gospel, or for what Jesus has done?
- A life that understands what matters, what will last, and who we belong to is a life marked by self-denial, BUT this could sound like punishment. How can self-denial actually be something that gives us joy?
- What places in your life do you need to consider more self-denial? Be specific.
- What places in your life are you excelling in self-denial, but not seeing it with joy?

- Paul mentions that he has laid down his "rights" and has preached without asking for anything in return for the sake of the Gospel and mankind. What are Paul's "rights" as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 9:1-14? What are some things that we can surrender and lay down so that we can preach the Gospel to our friends, family and people around us?
- Paul loved sharing the Gospel so much that he says in verse 18 that he would even do it for free! Can you imagine doing something you absolutely love and doing it for free? If you got the chance to play professional football or become an artist or actor would you do it for free? That is exactly how Paul felt as he shared the Gospel to those around him.
- Prayer "Lord, give me the love that Paul had for the Gospel. I want to share it freely with others so that others may come to know you. Amen."



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK FOURTEEN

1 Corinthians 10:1-22

DISCUSSION

- In this passage, Paul compares the Israelites' experience in the wilderness to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Despite Israel being sustained by God's spiritual provision, the Lord still found displeasure in them. What lessons can we learn from their example, and how might we be following their disobedience?
- Read *verses 13 and 14*. Paul emphasizes the importance of learning from the mistakes of the Israelites to avoid falling into temptation. How does the Lord aid us in this pursuit of obedience? As a result of the Lord's advocacy, how does Paul instruct us to respond to idolatry?
- Next, read *verses 16-22*. What do we risk when we allow idolatry to take hold of our spirit? How does idolatry disrupt our communion with God?

- Paul is warning the church of Corinth to not fall into idolatry by reminding them of what happened after Pharaoh freed Israel and they were led by Moses to the promised land. Idolatry means when we worship or place other things before God in our lives. Take time to reflect on your hearts as a family. Are there things that we sometimes place more importance in our lives instead of God?
- While Paul is warning the church of idolatry he is also reminding them of God's blessings as they got out of Egypt. He writes that they were "under the cloud and all passed through the sea...all were baptized...all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink..." (v.1-4). Activity: Grab a piece of paper and write down all the blessings that God has given you as a family and in your personal lives. Remind yourselves of the goodness and faithfulness of God. Pray and thank God for all his blessings everyday.
- Sing Together "Goodness of God" by NRC Kids



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK SIXTEEN

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

DISCUSSION

- It can be very easy to think that because we have freedom in Christ, we can do whatever we want so long as it's not sinful. However, in 1 Corinthians 10:23 Paul said that not all things that we are allowed to do "build up". What message do you think Paul is trying to convey to us? Should we do all the things we see are free to do just because we can? Why or why not?
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:24 and Romans 15:2-3. How well do you do in looking after your brothers and sisters in Christ? How have you helped them grow in their faith? If this has been an issue for you, what has been stopping you?
- Paul says that in everything we do, we must "do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). What does "glorifying God" look like in your everyday life (at Storehouse, at home, at work, in the gym...etc)?
- In 1 Corinthians 10:33, Paul is not saying that he's a "people pleaser". However, Paul is saying that he seeks the good of others for their salvation. How can you actively seek the spiritual well-being of those around you?

- Discussion Read *verse 31* together, ask the following questions to your children:
 - O What do you think this verse means?
 - On the second of the second
 - Is it really possible to glorify God no matter what we're doing? How?
- Discussion As a family, go around the table and talk about some basic things we do everyday such as brushing your teeth, doing homework, going to work, or doing chores around the house. Then ask everyone who suggested an everyday activity "How can you glorify God while you're doing that?"
- Memory Verse Follow the video in order to help children memorize 1 Corinthians 10:31 "Whatever You Do" Hand Motions



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK SEVENTEEN

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

DISCUSSION

- Why are differences between men and women important? Why do men and women need each other?
- In a culture of sexual perversion and engendered confusion. How can we be compassionate without compromising the truth of the gospel (i.e. we are sinners by nature and choice and Jesus reconciles sinners to God through the cross)?
- What does it mean that man is the glory of God and woman the glory of man?
- Orderly worship is based on God's design and is rooted in God's character. How does this communicate what we believe about God to a watching world?

- Draw a picture or write down a list of people with authority around us. How do these authority figures help
 us in our daily lives? Now think about Christ as authority in our life. How does trusting Him help us live our
 daily life?
- Paul's language throughout these verses are aimed towards honor. He talks about how women should honor their husbands and vice versa. He also talks about how we can and should honor God. Go around the table and discuss how we can honor God in our school, community and workplace.
- This section was aimed at the church in Corinth to help them with their sanctification. Paul reminds them of the "rules" that they should follow as imitators of Christ. What are some "rules" that we, as members of Storehouse, should hold fast to in order to be sanctified?



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK EIGHTEEN

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

DISCUSSION

- What is the significance of Christ's statements, "this is my body, which is for you" and "this cup is the new covenant in my blood"? (v. 24-25)
- What did Paul mean by saying that some among the Corinthians were sick and had even died? Was God judging them for how they were conducting themselves? What does this teach about God's holiness?
- Imagine you're talking to someone who is not familiar with church but interested and they ask about what communion is all about. How would you describe it to them and what it points to?
- Consider the following during communion:
 - o Look Within: Do I have sinful relational tensions with other members?
 - o Look Back: What has Jesus done? What do you have to rejoice in?
 - Look Around: What do you have to celebrate in union with each other as a body?
 - o Look Outward: Who do you need to pray for that they may hear and believe in the Gospel?
 - o Look Forward: Anticipate the fact that Jesus is coming again.

- Communion is a way believers remember what Jesus did for us in His death and resurrection (refer back to the Last Supper from *Matthew 26:17-30*). Explain to your children that communion goes hand in hand with baptism. Both baptism and communion powerfully reflect the gospel that Jesus died in our place for our sins and resurrected on the 3rd day. Help your kids understand that communion is reserved for the believer; those who have placed their trust in Jesus, have accepted him as their Lord and Savior and have publicly proclaimed this through baptism.
- A big part of communion in the life of a believer is that we take this moment to glorify God for all that he has done through the life of Jesus. Read *John 3:14-17* out loud and walk your kids through the Gospel. Afterwards pray with one another and thank God for saving our lives through his Son Jesus.
- Sing together <u>"This Is Amazing Grace"</u> as you reflect on what Christ has done for us.



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK NINETEEN

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

DISCUSSION

- What is the purpose of spiritual gifts in a local church?
- How do we discover and steward our gifting and what is the fruit of doing so? How can we idolize spiritual gifts and what are the dangers of doing so?
- What does this passage teach about the Holy Spirit? What does it teach about the inability of an unconverted person to come to Christ unaided by the Spirit?
- How does Paul celebrate the sovereignty of the Spirit in giving of spiritual gifts (v. 11)?

- Go over the gifts that Paul listed throughout this section. Then go around discussing what each individual's gifts are or can be. How do these gifts help us advance the Kingdom of God?
- Re-read verse 7. How can we use these gifts for the common good?
- Pray together as a family. Parents, pray over your children and ask God to grow their gift or to reveal their gift to them. If possible, invite your children to do the same for you.



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TWENTY

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

DISCUSSION

- What wrong attitude is Paul trying to correct in *verses 15-20*? What point does Paul say in *verse 17* to counter false humility?
- Paul says that the church has "many parts, but one body" (v. 20). What does this mean? What are the implications of this for the church?
- "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (*verse 26*). What does it look like for us as a community group to live this out? Be specific, and give examples. How have you seen believers live this out in the past?
- How can we help our fellow believers identify their gifts and ways they can serve the body?

- Make parts of the body using playdough. When you've finished, discuss or think about how each part is very special, but is missing something when it is off by itself. The parts couldn't accomplish much all alone. Each part is important and necessary to achieve God's plan. The body parts aren't as useful alone, but when we all put our parts together, it makes one body, just like we are one in Christ. We all bring different things to the world, but our goal is the same. We each have different spiritual gifts that God has given us. They work best together, not separate. Together we can accomplish a lot for God.
- In the context of our church, list out the different areas/ministries that we have and talk about how each area/ministry is vital to the health of the church.
- Just like each member of the body has a different job our end goal remains the same, so do we as Christians may have different roles or spiritual gifts but our end goal should always be to glorify God and advance his Kingdom. Go around the table and discuss how our roles may seem different in the context of our home but are essential for our family. Then go around the table and talk about how our roles at church may be different but are important and serve one purpose.



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TWENTY ONE

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

DISCUSSION

- Verses 1-3 emphasize that actions, even those that seem spiritual or sacrificial, are meaningless without love. Think about your motives for serving others or engaging in ministry. Are there areas where you've been motivated by pride, obligation, or a desire for recognition rather than genuine love? What steps can you take to ensure that love is your driving force?
- In *verses 4-7*, Paul describes love as patient, kind, not envious or boastful, and not self-seeking. Reflect on your own life and relationships. Which qualities of love do you find easy to display, and which ones do you find challenging?
- In verse 11, Paul speaks of putting away childish things as he grew older. Consider areas in your life where you may need to "put away childish things" to mature in your love for others. Are there attitudes, behaviors, or habits that hinder your ability to love fully and selflessly? How can you intentionally grow in maturity in your relationships?

- Re-read verse 13. Why does Paul say that "the greatest of these three is love"? Discuss with one another.
- Go back and review *chapter 12 verses 4-11*. Having spiritual gifts is a good thing, however Paul states that if we don't have love all that is worthless and does not benefit the church. With this in mind, remind one another of the spiritual gift God gave each of us and talk about how love plays a big role in how we use these gifts.
- How does loving one another honor Christ? How does knowing Christ help us to love one another?



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TWENTY TWO

1 Corinthians 14:1-25

DISCUSSION

- Paul encourages the Corinthians to excel in gifts that build up the church. Reflect on how you can
 encourage others in your church to discover and use their spiritual gifts for the edification of the body.
 Are there people in your church who might need encouragement or mentoring to use their gifts more
 effectively?
- In verses 13-17, Paul stresses the importance of understanding in worship, highlighting that praying or singing in a language that others do not understand can be unhelpful. Reflect on your worship practices, whether in a corporate setting or personally. Are there ways you can incorporate more clarity and understanding into your worship to ensure that it is beneficial for all?
- *Philippians 1:9-10* speaks of love abounding more and more in knowledge and depth of insight. How does growing in knowledge and discernment enhance the way you use your spiritual gifts?

- Throughout this verse Paul explains to the church how speaking in tongues benefits 1 person (unless there is an interpreter present to build up the church) and how prophesying helps build up the church as a whole. What are some gifts that we have or have seen that help build up the church as a whole? Why is it important to help build up Storehouse? How can we be involved in the health of the church?
- Read *verses 6-12*. Here Paul is telling the church that confusion does not edify the church and we should strive for edifying and encouraging one another instead of bringing chaos to one another. When there's chaos it can push people away from the church and ultimately Jesus. How could chaos be present at church and how can we help to avoid chaos being present at Storehouse?
- Go around the table and talk about a time when you had the opportunity to help edify a brother or sister in Christ. How did you show the love and grace of Jesus through that encounter? How can we keep being sensitive to the voice of God to be available to others?



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TWENTY THREE

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

DISCUSSION

- In verse 26, Paul lists different contributions members can bring to a church gathering, such as hymns, teachings, revelations, and interpretations. Reflect on what you bring to your church community. Are your contributions helping to build up the church, or are there ways you could better serve the community? How can you use your gifts to encourage and strengthen others?
- Verses 34-35 discuss roles and order within the church, particularly regarding women's participation in certain aspects of worship during that time. Reflect on how you respond to biblical instructions that challenge cultural norms or personal preferences. Do you find it difficult to submit to God's design for worship and church order? How can you cultivate a heart that is willing to follow God's directives even when they are countercultural or challenging?
- Acts 17:11 describes how the Bereans examined the Scriptures daily to see if what Paul said was true. How does this example encourage you to be diligent in testing and confirming the teachings and words shared in the Church?

- Parents/Children Have you ever left a church service and thought, "That was so confusing to me," or "Everything seemed chaotic or did not have any structure." In your experience, did any part or person in the service help point you back to God and His design for worshiping Him?
- Gift of tongues and prophecy QUIZ from the BibleProject: https://bibleproject.com/classroom/1-corinthians-lucy-peppiatt/quizzes/6
- Prayer Dear God, thank you for being a God who gives order, care, and purpose for Your people. So that we can build up Your church. Help us grow in our understanding and maturing of the gifts You have given us. Please, Holy Spirit, give us Your peace and patience for what we don't understand right now about the gifts by trusting God's Word. May the gifts You've given each of us our Storehouse family be used to clearly and confidently point others to the gospel of Jesus. Amen.



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TWENTY FOUR

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

DISCUSSION

- In *verses 1-2*, Paul reminds the Corinthians of the gospel he preached, which they received and on which they have taken their stand. Reflect on your own relationship with the gospel. Do you continually remind yourself of the good news and stand firm in it, or do you find yourself drifting away from its truth?
- Galatians 1:6-9 warns against turning to a different gospel. How does this passage challenge you to be vigilant in holding to the true gospel and sharing it accurately?
- In verses 9-10, Paul reflects on his unworthiness due to his past persecution of the church and emphasizes that it is by the grace of God that he is who he is. Think about your own life and the grace God has shown you. How has God's grace transformed you? How can you live in a way that reflects gratitude for the grace you've received, acknowledging both your unworthiness and God's mercy?
- In verse 10, Paul writes that although he is what he is by the grace of God, he worked harder than all the other apostles—yet not him, but the grace of God that was with him. Reflect on how you respond to the grace of God in your life. Do you find that grace motivates you to work hard for the kingdom of God, or do you take it for granted?

- Discuss Together What does it mean to believe in Jesus? What does it mean to believe in vain?
- Activity Scripture Scavenger Hunt. Complete as a family during the week or as a game night between family members. Look up Isaiah 53, Romans 6;9, 1 Peter 2:24, Romans 1:16, Luke 24:34, Acts 1:3-4, 10:40, Luke 9:22, and John 2:22. Which of these scriptures matches the parts of the gospel Paul describes in 15:3-4? If time allows, make a paper or wall display with colored sections (using post-its, colored makers, etc) with additional bible references that point to the gospel components.
- Sing Together John 3:36 I Believe by Seeds Kids Worship
- Pray Together Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus just as You promised. Thank You that we can trust and hope in the sufficient work of Jesus's obedient life, sacrificial death, and powerfully glorious resurrection. Thank You for Your gift of grace for sinners like me. Help us to keep that hope and share the gospel with others around us in your Spirit's power. We love you, God! In Jesus name, Amen!



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TWENTY FIVE

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

DISCUSSION

- In verse 33, Paul tells the Corinthians to not be deceived and then quotes, "Bad company ruins good morals." What happens when we surround ourselves with people who don't speak the truth about the resurrection?
- Read *Mark 9:31-32*. What do these verses teach us about God's character? Why is it important for us to take God at His word?
- What impact should the resurrection have on our faith? What hope does it provide for believers?

- What would be different for us as Christians if Jesus wasn't raised from the dead? Could our sins still be forgiven? (See *Romans 4:24b-25, Ephesians 2:8*)
- What does the resurrection prove to us about God? How does this passage help you to love, trust, and worship Jesus more fully?
- Activity Make a venn diagram (two circles that overlap in the middle) with "Adam" written above one circle, and "Jesus" written above the second circle. Write similarities between Adam and Jesus where the circles overlap, and write differences in the outer portions of the circles. (Keep this diagram to continue using next week.) What was something new you learned about Jesus from in 1 Corinthians 15:12-34?
- Sing Together Christ Our Hope In Life and Death by Kingdom Kids, and On That Day by CityAlight



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TWENTY SIX

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

DISCUSSION

- According to this passage, what is the difference between the earthly body and the heavenly body? What purpose does each body serve?
- Read *Romans 5:18-19*. How does Adam's role in bringing sin and death and Christ's role in bringing righteousness and life affect our spiritual identity and relationship with God?
- In verse 49, Paul says we "bear the image of the man of heaven." How should this influence the way we live now, knowing we will bear the heavenly image in the future?

- Discuss Together What does imperishable mean? How does the resurrection give comfort and hope to those who do not feel "at home" in their current physical bodies? (See *John 5:21*, *John 6:40*; *Romans 8:2*, 10-11)
- Activity Continue using the venn diagram from last week. Add to the similarities or differences between Adam and Jesus. Make a new venn diagram comparing and contrasting our current physical bodies versus how Paul describes the resurrected body.
- Sing Together: <u>Hymn of Heaven by Phil Wickham</u>



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TWENTY SEVEN

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

DISCUSSION

- What does Paul mean by "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" in verse 50?
- Through Christ's victory, the rule of death has been reversed. What is the significance of our mortal bodies being transformed to put on immortality?
- In verses 58-59, Paul concludes by encouraging the Corinthians believers that their work in the Lord is not in vain. Why do some Christians lose heart and how can we keep doing the work of the Lord without losing our passion?

- Discuss together What does corruptible mean? What is the "mystery" Paul is describing? (1 Thess 4:13-18).
- Sing together: Christ is Risen From The Dead by Matt Maher and 1 Corinthians 15:57-58 Immovable (Hand Motions) by Seeds Kids Worship
- What can you do to live by the truths and instructions Paul reminds us of through verses 50-58?
- Pray together God, thank You for the hope generated by Your promises, which are always kept and never broken. Thank You for the assurance of spiritual bodies and life everlasting, for the assurance of an end to death and its power, for the assurance of eternal victory. By Your grace we rest secure in the assurance of Heaven and eternity; by Your grace may we here and now be always abounding in the work of the Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | WEEK TWENTY EIGHT

1 Corinthians 16:1-24

DISCUSSION

- At the beginning of this chapter, Paul emphasizes the importance of tithing. How does our generosity benefit the saints?
- In *verses 15-18*, Paul recognizes the household of Stephanas for their devotion to the saints, serving as a model for hospitality. Why is it important we recognize those who show such hospitality?
- Paul concludes his letter to the Corinthians with one final instruction: to "greet one another with a holy kiss." How does this instruction serve as a reminder to foster authentic relationships within our biblical community?

- Reread v.1-4. Collection challenge When you collect something you really like or love, do you only keep it to yourself? When was the last time you brought relief to a friend/classmate, or helped a family in need? Consider how you can live with generous hearts to reflect our generous Savior this week (See 2 Corinthians 8:9-15)
- What does Paul mean when he says "act like men"? (See *Deut 31:6-7, Joshua 1:6-7, 9, 10:25, 1 Chron 28:20, Ps. 27:14*).
- Sing and Memorize together 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Do Everything In Love by Seeds Kids Worship