

THE FIRST LETTER TO THE

CORINTHIANS

Gospel Community Discussion Guide

5 HELPFUL GROUP DISCUSSION RULES

1. If you talk a lot, allow space for someone else to speak up.
2. If you don't talk as much, work on sharing more.
3. Focus on what this passage is saying, don't stray too far from it. Seek not only to understand more about God through the passage, but also how it specifically applies to your own life as a believer.
4. Give other people time to respond, silence is ok.
5. Respect your Gospel Community family and exercise grace.

****taken from Redeemer Round Rock****

WEEK 1

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-17

1. Why is it important for Paul to note that he was called to be an apostle “by the will of God”? How does this apply to our own lives?
 2. What is significant about the way that Paul approaches the Corinthian believers in vs. 4-9 prior to diving into the issues he wants to address with them? Explain.
 3. Division in the church setting is not a new problem. According to vs. 10, how many divisions does Paul implore the Corinthian church to tolerate? Why is it important that the people of God be of the same mind and judgment?
 4. Read vs. 11-13. Why is this something to address in a local body? What does this say about the maturity of the people of the Corinthian church?
 5. What is Paul trying to communicate to the Corinthian church in vs. 17?
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WEEK 2

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

1. Why is the message of the cross “folly” to the natural mind?
 2. The Greeks were known for their philosophers and “wisdom” while the Jewish people were known for their religious piety. When you read vs. 22-24, how does the message of the cross expose the weakness of both of these cultural identities?
 3. One of the great things about how God chooses is that it’s his choice. Read vs. 22-26. How are you encouraged by this portion of the chapter? How should this impact the way we interact with some of the “least” in our society?
 4. In vs. 30 Paul states the Christ has “become wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.” Which of these characteristics is most meaningful to you at this time in your life, and why?
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WEEK 3

1 CORINTHIANS 2

1. We've talked about the fact that the Greeks loved philosophy and lofty orators. Why did Paul "decide" to address the Corinthian church in weakness and limited eloquence of speech?
 2. In vs. 6 Paul clearly points out the immaturity of the Corinthian church and begins to set them up for all the areas he wants to address. He speaks of a "secret and hidden wisdom". What is this wisdom He is speaking about?
 3. Chapter 2 begins to show the distinction between the wisdom and mindset of the world and the wisdom and the mindset of Christ. Discuss where you see these conflicting views of life play out in your daily life.
 4. Vs. 14-15 gives us insight into why those who have not been reconciled to God are blind to his ways. It also reveals the power of a redeemed mind. How can these passages help you as a believer be a better ambassador to those who still do not comprehend the truth?
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WEEK 4

1 CORINTHIANS 3

1. Chapter 3 really begins to reveal Paul's assessment of the current condition of the Corinthian church. He refers to this group as fleshly and "infants in Christ"? In vs. 1-4 what are some of the characteristics that Paul highlights?
 2. Read vs. 5-10. Paul is pointing out the importance of not showing preference to certain roles in the building of the body of Christ. Who is the one who actually makes it all happen according to vs. 7? Why do you think this is hard for many people to remember?
 3. Read vs. 10-15. This is a very powerful picture of the contrast between a life fueled by grace and striving in our own will and abilities. A lot of imagery here involves the quality of workmanship and the result. What similarities do you see here with Jesus' words in Matthew 7:24-25? How can we know the genuineness of what we are building upon the foundation of Christ?
 4. Chapter 3 dives into the idea of partisanship in the body of Christ. The Corinthian church is bragging about which apostolic person they are following. Why is this dangerous to only follow certain individuals? What impact can this have on us as the people of God and a unified vision?
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WEEK 5

1 CORINTHIANS 4

1. What are some examples of people, resources, or anything else that you have been given by the Lord to steward faithfully?
 2. Read 1 Cor 4:3-5. What kind of judgment is Paul referring to? Talk about the implications of potentially prematurely judging a person according to these passages.
 3. Vs. 8 is a beautiful statement about our position in Christ. What is Paul trying to help this immature group of believers understand about their identity?
 4. Read the last section of this chapter (v.14-21) Paul is clearly using the language of family, read this section together. What are some of the characteristics of this portion of the text that stand out to you?
 5. What does Paul mean by the statement “for though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers”? Why is it important to have that quality of a relationship as we grow up spiritually? Do you have that in your life?
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WEEK 6

1 CORINTHIANS 5

1. Can judgment and mercy function together?
 2. Why is it so important that we address unrepentant sin within the body of Christ according to this passage? (vs. 6-8)
 3. What do you think it means to deliver a person over to Satan as is quoted in vs. 5?
 4. When someone is confronted with an unrepentant sin, what is the purpose of the confrontation according to this passage? You can also reference Jesus' reference to confronting a brother/sister in Mathew 18:15. What should we hope happens with this person as a result of being "put outside" their relationships with other believers?
 5. How would you describe to a non-believer the purpose of this action in a way that would bring them to a place of understanding God's grace in this situation?
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WEEK 7

1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-11

1. Do you consider yourself someone who needs to be “right”?
 2. What are some of the reasons that Paul gives in the first part of chapter 6 as to why believers should not be taking one another to court?
 3. Does this mean that there are never times that we as members of the body of Christ can use the judicial system in our nation? What are some principles to follow according to this passage to help guide us in that decision making?
 4. In vs. 9-10, those listed will not inherit the kingdom of God. However, we know that many believers struggle at times with these lifestyles. How are these people different from the person described in vs. 11?
 5. Maybe you haven't been involved in a lawsuit, but all of us have had disagreements with other believers. Are there any situations that come to mind where you see the need to reconcile with a brother or sister in your life?
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WEEK 8

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

1. Why is it important to establish boundaries in life?
 2. What principle is Paul trying to lay out for us in vs. 12-14?
 3. As you read through the second half of Chapter 6, what examples are given to show why sexual immorality is such a destructive sin?
 4. We see the reference to our being members of the body of Christ in vs. 15. Because of this, who will be impacted by our sexual sin? Refer to Romans 12:5.
 5. Think back to question 1 about the importance of boundaries along with vs.18-20. How can you apply this principle practically in the area of sexual temptation?
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WEEK 9

1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-24

1. What do we learn in vs. 1-2 about the boundaries for sex? Why is such a critical principle to abide in? Especially in our culture.
 2. Read vs. 3-5. How would you explain that a husband and wife have authority over one another's bodies in a healthy way? What is Paul trying to communicate here for married couples?
 3. Looking at vs. 10-16, Paul gives a detailed description of the marital relationship between believers and between a believer and non-believer. What is symbolic about these two different examples of marriage when we consider our relationship with Christ?
 4. In vs. 17-24 there are several examples given referring to "remaining as you are" when you become a believer. For example, you become a believer and remain married to an unbelieving spouse. How can a person discern what lifestyles we may continue in after becoming a believer (even if they may not seem ideal) versus which ones we need to clearly rid ourselves of?
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WEEK 10

1 CORINTHIANS 7:25-40

1. In the second half of this chapter Paul, discusses whether we should marry or not. What is the importance of understanding how God has designed you personally when it comes to marriage or remaining single?
 2. How might you use this portion of the letter to address the question of sex outside of marriage? How can it help educate about sexual purity? Also, redemption if someone has not been pure sexually before marriage?
 3. Read vs. 32-35. We know that other parts of the bible talk about how “to find a good wife is a good thing.” (Proverbs 18:22 & Genesis 2:18). How do you reconcile vs. 32-35 with these other passages in the bible that clearly advocate a marriage relationship as helpful?
 4. Chapter 7 can often be a difficult chapter to process when it comes to the variety of marital and sexual relationships discussed. The final portion discusses married couples and their devotion to the Lord. If married, is it possible to be single-minded about the Lord? If so, how does this partnership in marriage display itself as a partnership in Christ to the world around us? Give some practical examples.
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WEEK 11

1 CORINTHIANS 8

1. Would you rather have all your rights or live in peace?
 2. In vs. 2-3, we see that knowledge is secondary to love in the hierarchy of Kingdom values. Why might this have been difficult for the Corinthian church to accept? Where do you see the same problem today?
 3. Chapter 8 is specifically addressing food sacrificed to idols. This isn't necessarily something we specifically have to deal with in our society. However, in what areas do you see the principle expressed in vs. 9 become relevant today? Especially between believers. Romans 14:3-4 is another good reference.
 4. Vs. 10-12 talks about causing our brothers and sisters to stumble by our knowledge. Is it possible to live in a way that honors those around us and their "weakness" or "lack of knowledge" and not be paralyzed by the fear of causing others to stumble? Explain your answer.
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WEEK 12

1 CORINTHIANS 9

1. In the first section of this chapter, Paul talks about the Corinthian people being his “workmanship”. What is he referring to? Are you personally anyone’s workmanship and in what way did they help “form” you? (Can be either natural or spiritual or both)
 2. What are some “rights” you have set aside at times in your life in order to not put an obstacle in the way of “the gospel of Christ”? Did you see fruit from it in the life/lives of those you deferred to?
 3. Read vs. 19-23. In this context, what does Paul mean by the phrase “I have become all things to all people, that by all means some might be saved”? How could this particular quote get misrepresented?
 4. How does the imagery used in vs. 24-27 help us to understand our approach to our lives in Christ as individuals? As a people together?
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WEEK 13

1 CORINTHIANS 10

1. Can you name a situation in your life where you avoided making a bad decision by learning from the failure of someone else?
 2. Referring to vs. 13, can you recall a time when you were tempted and God provided a way of escape? Did you take it or not? What happened as a result?
 3. What does the statement mean that “All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up”?
 4. What are some examples, today, of things that can be divisive amongst believers even though they may technically be “lawful”? How do you determine what is free for you to participate in and not put your other family members on the defensive?
 5. Read vs. 31-33. What is the difference between “trying to please everyone in all you do” and being paralyzed by trying to please everyone all the time? Is there a difference and why is this important?
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