



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 12

1. Define the word gift. Can you name a gift that you received through the years that was really impactful for you? Or maybe a favorite gift you received? What made it impactful or a favorite of yours?
2. Why is 1 Corinthians 12:3 such a significant statement when it comes to understanding if a person is a member of the body of Christ?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. What is the common theme Paul seems to be trying to communicate to the reader about the purpose of gifts for the body of Christ? What has been your experience with seeing how gifts are used between the people of God?
4. In vs. 12, why is this such a significant statement to the people of that time period? What are the potential dividing lines today that prevent us from seeing each other as being “baptized into one spirit” and “drinking from one spirit”?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26. Discuss the significance of this portion of the chapter in regards to the following;
 - » *Pride about your place in the body.*
 - » *Oneness in the body.*
 - » *Synergism in the body.*

What proactive steps can you take to help promote the significance of other parts of the body that are different from you?

WEEK 2

1 CORINTHIANS 13

1. How would you say most of our society today would define love?
2. When reading the first portion of this chapter vs. 1-3, does it surprise you that any of these areas (ie. faith, generosity, martyrdom) are worthless without love? How does this potentially impact your attitude about the significance of spiritual gifts?
3. In vs. 4-7 we see that true love is an “action”. What are some of the characteristics that you believe are strengths for you? What are the areas where you struggle or that you would like to see personal growth?
4. In vs. 8-11 Paul puts the gifts in the perspective of eternity. In vs. 13 he says, “the greatest of these is love”. In light of eternity, why is love “the greatest of these”? Why is it important to keep all of this in the perspective of eternity?

WEEK 3

1 CORINTHIANS 14

1. As we continue to discuss the spiritual gifts, how do you respond when the topic of spiritual gifts comes up? Excitement? Curiosity? Confusion and intimidation? Dread? Why is that?
 2. What does it look like to pursue love and earnestly desire spiritual gifts? How does that play out practically speaking?
 3. There is controversy over whether certain gifts mentioned in this section still exist today. The gifts usually in question are tongues, prophecy, and healing. Study the passage alongside other related passages, such as Acts 2 and the lists of spiritual gifts in Ephesians 4:1-16 and Romans 12:3-8. Regardless of your convictions on these gifts for today, draw out some principles you see in our passage on the use of these visible and powerful gifts. (taken from the Knowing the Bible Series)
 4. Read 1 Corinthians 14:20-25. Discuss the importance of how we relate to one another in the body of Christ and how we relate to those outside the body. What does it mean to have order in a “church meeting”? Does some semblance of order and structure matter according to the passage? If we ignore the instructions of this passage, how can it become a misrepresentation of God’s character?
 5. Verse 12 is a key verse. He says “...strive to excel in building up the church.” All gifts are intended to build up the body of believers and exalt Jesus. How do the gifts do this? How can gifts be used to tear down the church, divide the body of believers, and misrepresent Jesus?
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WEEK 4

1 CORINTHIANS 15A (1-11)

1. Can you recall a significant historical event that you or someone you know have witnessed? Why is the eyewitness account so critical when recording something historically?
2. What did Paul say was “of first importance”? Why should the gospel message be of first importance?
3. What are the three most important “facts” that Paul refers to in the first part of Chapter 15? Why do you think he makes reference to the “eyewitness accounts”?
4. Can you point to other passages in the Bible that verify that Christ’s death was “in accordance with the scriptures”?
5. Discuss Paul’s description of himself in vs. 8-11. What do you think he means by his grace was not in vain? Why is vs. 11 such a significant statement concerning the ministry of the early apostles? Do we have that same mindset today?

WEEK 5

1 CORINTHIANS 15B (12-24)

1. Have you ever been involved in a rumor that misrepresented you or someone close to you? How did that impact you or those around you?
 2. Read 1 Cor 15:12-19. What do you think it was like for the early believers to hear this rumor that the dead are not raised? Explain what Paul means in vs. 19?
 3. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 is the crux or what we believe as followers of Christ. What is so significant about these passages? How does it separate those who follow Christ from all other world religions or belief systems?
 4. What is the significance of Christ as the first fruit of the resurrection? With the rumor that there is no resurrection, why is this such an important concept to drive home? Also, why is the order described in vs. 23-25 so significant?
 5. What hope does remembering the resurrection provide for you today?
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WEEK 6

1 COR 15C(25-48 & 16)

1. In this section of chapter 15 what do we learn about the nature of the believer's resurrection body?
 2. A few scenarios that are mentioned in 15:29-34 should motivate the Corinthians to revive their belief in the resurrection. How should belief in the resurrection motivate believers, some of whom may even be killed for their faith (15:31-32)? How should it motivate godly living (15:32-34)?
 3. In 15:58, why do you think Paul addresses this approach to living? How do you see these qualities playing out in your own life today?
 4. In the second part of chapter 16, Paul describes his itinerary along with some of the others including Timothy and Apollos. What stands out to you about the decision making process that Paul along with the other leaders have when it comes to their decision making on when and where to go? How can we apply this to the way we plan our schedules and lives?
 5. In the last part of chapter 16, Paul exhorts his brothers and sisters in v. 13 through the remainder of the letter. What are some of the characteristics of this exhortation that are notable concerning how we should conduct ourselves? How we treat those who serve us in the body? How we treat one another?
 6. If you have time, what has been one of the more impactful portions of our study of 1 Corinthians for you and why?
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