

# 1 CORINTHIANS

The First Letter of Paul  
to the Corinthians

**WEEK 1 (1/5-1/11)**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians.

1. What do you (members of the group) know from previous studies on the book of 1 Corinthians? What cumulative knowledge does the group have as you embark on this study?

Watch The Bible Project video introducing 1 Corinthians (~9 mins):

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/1-corinthians/>

Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

2. Now knowing there is some unhealth in Corinth, causing Paul to address it with this letter, why do you think Paul starts his letter off with such a positive thanksgiving for God's grace given to the Corinthians?
3. What do you think it means to be 'enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge'? (v.5)
4. What do you think it means when Paul says they 'are not lacking in any gift'? (v.7)
5. Where is the basis of Paul's thanksgiving? Who does he thank? Who gave them grace? In whom were they enriched? Who sustains? Who is faithful? Who called them into fellowship?
6. If Paul's thanksgiving is really based in God, what does that mean for you when you might not be in the healthiest place?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayers of thanksgiving to God regardless of the circumstances they might find themselves in.



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**WEEK 2 (1/12-1/18)**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think it means for there to 'be no divisions among you' in the church? (v.10)
2. Describe if you've ever been a part of a community where unhealthy competing cliques arose.
3. What is the difference between loving and following leaders, and exalting them to an unhealthy place?
4. What does Paul indicate is the answer to these divisions? Hint: verse 13.
5. Why do you think Paul adds the end to this section, that he didn't preach with eloquence?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayers requests.

Specifically pray for any perceived division in our body of Christ.

Pray for the leaders of the church.



# 1 CORINTHIANS

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**WEEK 3** (1/19-1/25)  
**1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 1:18

[18] For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (ESV)

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. How is 'the word of the cross folly to those who are perishing'? (v.18)
2. What is the 'wisdom of the world', and why does Paul call it 'foolish'? (v.20)
3. What does it mean that the Jews want signs, and the Greeks want wisdom, but we preach Christ? (v.22-23)
4. So, Paul calls the world foolish. But he also calls what we preach folly. And then he ends with the foolishness of God is wiser, and the weakness of God is stronger. What is Paul trying to do with these rhetorical devices?
5. How have you seen your foolishness or weakness made strong in God?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Pray for each other's weaknesses.

Pray for those who are perishing to see the word of the cross as the power of God.



# 1 CORINTHIANS

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**WEEK 4** (1/26-2/1)  
**1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-31**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Paul is quoting Jeremiah 9:23-24 in this section. Read it aloud. How is Jeremiah's argument different from Paul's?
2. What would you say are the 'worldly standards' for wisdom?
3. How does it feel to you to be in this category: weak, foolish, low and despised?
4. Why does God choose these kinds of people for his kingdom work?
5. How have you found yourself boasting in yourself in the past?
6. What is it in verses 30-31 that give us no grounds to boast in ourselves?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Confess areas where you have boasted in yourself.

Pray for a heart that truly desires to only boast in the Lord.



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**WEEK 5** (2/2-2/8)  
**1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think it would look like to hear 'the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom'? (v.1)
2. What would it look like 'to know nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified' to your non-believing neighbors/friends? (v.2)
3. What do you think it means when Paul says that his speech and message were demonstrating the Spirit and power? (v.4)
4. How do you distinguish between anti-intellectualism and humble teaching?
5. What do you think the balance is in this text between wisdom & pride? Between good apologetics & displaying power?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Pray specifically for people in your lives who you need 'to know nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified' to.



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**WEEK 6** (2/9-2/15)  
**1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-16**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. How would you define 'wisdom'?
2. If possible, how can somebody be 'wise' and not be a Christian?
3. What designation does Paul make between 'wisdom of this age' and the 'wisdom of God'?
4. What role does the Spirit play in discerning God's wisdom?
5. What do you think the world thinks about the wisdom of God?
6. What do you think you should do if you want to grow in the wisdom of God?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Pray specifically to grow in the wisdom of God concerning your situations needing prayer.



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**WEEK 7** (2/16-2/22)

**1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-9**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Share around the room how old you were when you were saved. What was it like to be an 'infant in Christ'?
2. Who played the role of teaching you (feeding you with milk) in your early days following Jesus?
3. For how long do you feel like you were eating spiritual milk? Are you still there? Do you think you needed more/less milk before moving onto solid food?
4. What is the proper way, in your mind, to move infant Christians on to solid food?
5. Share around the room about a leader or leaders through whom you believed. How is it that some planted awhile others watered?
6. What does Paul mean when he says 'so neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything' (v.6)?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Pray for each other in your group to continue to grow up toward maturity in Christ.



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**WEEK 8** (3/1-3/7)  
**1 CORINTHIANS 3:9-17**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. The overlap with last week comes in verse 9 where Paul shift from the metaphor of a plant and moves to the metaphor of a building. How are these metaphors the same? How are they different?
2. What do you think the appropriate response to those who have helped you further in your discipleship?
3. What do you think your responsibility is to do when it comes to 'building upon' the foundation of Jesus Christ in others?
4. What do you think verse 14 means?
5. Verses 16-17 have often been misused to talk about tattoos, or obesity, or body-alterations. But based on the context, how do you interpret it?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Thank God for the men and women who have helped you grow in your walk with Jesus.



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**WEEK 9** (3/8-3/14)  
**1 CORINTHIANS 3:18-4:5**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

These two paragraphs deal with how to regard oneself, and how to regard others.

1. As you think back on your life, specifically your walk with Jesus, talk about times when you have been self-deceived.
2. Based on all we have studied in 1 Corinthians, what do you think it means to 'let him become a fool that he may become wise' (3:18)?
3. What do you think Paul means in his instruction on how to regard church leaders in 4:1?
4. Read Matthew 7:15-20 and discuss how it relates to this passage.
5. What does the burden of 4:5 laid upon leaders make you feel?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Pray for one another to be 'sober-minded' in how we assess ourselves and others.



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**WEEK 10** (3/22-3/28)  
**1 CORINTHIANS 4:6-13**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think “these things” are that Paul mentions in verse 6 (recap)?
2. Based on what you know about the church at Corinth in these first few chapters, what is Paul doing in verse 7? Is he being rhetorical?
3. Paul seems to be putting down the apostles: we are fools, we are weak, we are held in disrepute, etc...why is Paul doing this?
4. What do you think Paul hopes to accomplish by pointing out the lowly estate of the apostles?
5. How ought the Corinthians imitate the apostles?
6. How can we be like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things (v.13)?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests and pray for one another.



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**WEEK 11** (3/29-4/4)  
**1 CORINTHIANS 4:14-21**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. This is the end to the first section of Paul's letter (chapters 1-4), and the keystone verse in verse 16. How do you think this is a summation for the first movement of this letter?
2. What do you think is the difference between spiritual 'guides' and spiritual 'fathers'?
3. It is left vague what they are to imitate of Paul, but if you had to guess, what do you think he means?
4. What is different in how a 'guide' corrects and disciplines from how a 'father' disciplines and corrects?
5. How do you think God might want you to grow into a spiritual father, worthy of imitation?
6. What do you think verse 20 means?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Pray that you might have a life worthy of imitation, like Paul's.



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**WEEK 12** (4/12-4/18)

**1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-8**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Paul says 'And you are arrogant!' in verse 2? What do you think is happening?
2. What do you think it means for Paul to say "let him who has done this be removed from among you" (v.2)?
3. If verse 2 wasn't enough, what do you think of verse 5?
4. What do you think the hope is that Paul suggests when he says that his spirit may be saved (v.5)?
5. Paul illustrated with leaven. How do you think sin is like leaven?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Pray for the church to take sin very seriously.



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**WEEK 13** (4/19-4/25)  
**1 CORINTHIANS 5:9-13**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What does this passage say/imply concerning how you should deal with non-believers who sin?
2. What does this passage say/imply concerning how we should deal with believers who are unrepentant in their sin?
3. Read Matthew 18:15-20 and discuss the process a Christian/church should follow when a fellow believer is found in sin?
4. How have you seen this kind of reformatory church discipline done well? How have you seen it done poorly?
5. What are the benefits of the church that practices reformatory church discipline? What are the downsides to a church who does not practice discipline like this?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Pray for the church to take sin very seriously.



# 1 CORINTHIANS

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**WEEK 14** (4/26-5/2)  
**1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-11**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What does it look like to the world when Christians have disputes between themselves that they cannot solve? Can you think of examples of this negatively affecting our witness to the world?
2. How does this kind of dissention between believers increase factions within a church community?
3. What does this passage say about whether or not the church should be able to handle disputes inside their community?
4. How would you interpret and apply verse 7? What does it mean for you when you are wronged by a brother?
5. Verse 11 is such a wonderful reminder of the Gospel and your story. Share around the group how "such were some of you" applies to you, and how God has changed your life!

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Pray for the church to take unity very seriously.



# 1 CORINTHIANS

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**WEEK 15** (5/10-5/16)  
**1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20**

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Pray for God to give you and your discipleship group eyes to see and ears to hear what he is saying in the book of 1 Corinthians. Read the passage aloud.

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean that “all things are lawful for me”? People have used this as an excuse for poor behavior for years! So, what does it mean?
2. What are some things that “dominate” Christians that are considered to be socially acceptable, even if God might disapprove?
3. Why do you think Paul commands us to “flee sexual immorality”? Why doesn’t he say “fight” or “stand firm”?
4. What does it mean to “sin against one’s own body”?
5. How can we apply the idea of honoring God with our body?

## PRAYER GUIDE:

Ask your group to share prayer requests.

Pray for each other to honor God with our bodies.

