



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of November 5, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- **Why is the peace and purity of the church so important to God?**

I Corinthians 5:6b-6:8

^{5:6b} Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰ not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

- **How does leaven work in a lump of dough? How can sin's corruption affect a church?**
- **What is Paul's connection between Passover and Christ's sacrifice for us on the Cross?**
- **What responsibility does the church have today in judging others? Why might God instruct us to purge out corruption from the church rather than passing judgment on the world?**
- **Under what conditions should someone be expelled from the church?**

Unleavened Bread of Sincerity & Truth

^{6:1} When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? ² Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! ⁴ So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, ⁶ but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? ⁷ To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? ⁸ But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

- **The Corinthians were bringing their disputes before outside judges. Why was this problematic for Paul?**
- **Think about a dispute you had with another believer. How was it resolved? Why?**
- **Jesus suffered our wrong, and so frees us from our need to win against our brother. Can you share a time that trusting Jesus helped you to set aside a dispute and forgive?**
- **Reflect on this week's passage together, and use it as a guide for a time of prayer.**

To hear sermons and access past study guides visit
www.wepc.org/resources/sermons-media-study-guide
Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,
kevin@wepc.org