



## A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of February 25, 2024

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

- **When do you have trouble listening? What does it take to listen well?**

### 1 Corinthians 14:33b-40

<sup>33b</sup> As in all the churches of the saints, <sup>34</sup> the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. <sup>35</sup> If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

- **In healthy families, communities—and congregations-- there is an order to speaking and listening. What challenges to hearing and being heard does Paul address as he speaks to this church?**
- **For several chapters, Paul has called the Corinthians to honor God and one another whenever they gather. The Corinthian women were bringing shame dishonor on the congregation because of the way they conducted themselves in the church's gathering. What would be examples of how we might dishonor one another in worship?**
- **Paul's instruction is by the Lord's command (37) for universal application for "*all the churches*" (33). Women are clearly commanded "*to be silent in the churches*" (34), and the reason for woman's silence must be "*in submission, as the Law says*" (34). However, women are commanded to faithfully participate in the worship of God: praying, prophesying, and singing in the congregation ([1 Corinthians 11:5](#); [Colossians 3:16](#)). So, what is the command that is to be obeyed?**

### Orderly Worship

<sup>36</sup> Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? <sup>37</sup> If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. <sup>38</sup> If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. <sup>39</sup> So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. <sup>40</sup> But all things should be done decently and in order.

- **Paul basically tells the Corinthians, "do you think everything revolves around you and what you have to say?" (36-37). How have you experienced your own self-focus getting in the way of worship?**
- **Prophets are obligated to do more than speak: They must submit to the Lord (38-39). A prophet who won't submit to the Lord isn't much of a prophet! Why is this true?**
- **Paul concludes that all the speaking, practice of spiritual gifts, and cooperation as the body of Christ "*should be done decently and in order*" (40). What spiritual qualities and practices should order the church whenever she gathers?**
- **Ultimately, Jesus is King and Head of His Church, and His Word is the Message. How is this a challenge or encouragement to you?**
- **Reflect on this week's passage together, and use it as a guide for a time of prayer.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,  
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## Stories from the Church: *Turning to Jesus*

*Each Sunday in Lent we will hear testimonies of how Jesus is leading us to repent to trust Him, becoming like Him in His death, and attaining His resurrection (Philippians 3:10-11).*



**Vuso Mkwandawire**  
*February 25, 2024*

### **God's Love and Pursuit**

My name is Vuso Malumbo Mkwandawire but most of you know me as just Vuso. I was born

here in Henrico at Henrico Doctors. Then I was baptized here at West End at 4 years old. This is the only church I have known. Once I became of age I attended Maybeury Elementary School. After Maybeury Elementary School, I went to Tuckahoe Middle School, where I was accepted to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. I performed exceptionally well in the IB Program winning a couple of prestigious awards. Upon graduation from Tuckahoe Middle School, I went to Douglas Freeman High school. The purpose of this testimony is to share God's love and his constant pursuit of me. That I am still alive today and sharing this testimony is by the Grace of God.

Basking in my academic excellence which included tutoring other students, I became drunk with my success. I had a lot of friends. As the circle of my friends grew so did the peer pressure. I was admired by my peers and their parents. This acceptance was my downfall because I was looking for it in the wrong place. Once I got to high school the popularity became too much to handle, causing me to become someone God knew I wasn't. My academic success was the definition of my existence even though this was true I began to underperform. This was very unlike me. My parents new something was up. My academics and attendance were so alarming, they decided to send me to Johannesburg, South Africa. In hindsight, I really see how this move was God's work through, only through my parents. Thank you, Mom and Dad! I tried to enroll in a high school in Johannesburg, but the visa requirements stumped us. When I

couldn't go to school I moved to Malawi, my parents, John and Audrey, home country. In Malawi I was offered an opportunity to go to school but declined because of my pride. I just didn't understand, a step is a step no matter how small you believe it is. In my stubbornness I continued to run the family construction company implementing my skills learned at Freeman. Covid struck when I was in Malawi, so the US Govt. offered a repatriation flight. I returned home and not even a year passed when I was involved in a nearly fatal motorcycle accident. I am just here because of God's grace and love for me. If I had known how much he loves me, I wouldn't have acted so foolish. I am endlessly grateful for his LOVE AND PURSUIT! I have no regrets at all because I trust my GOD.

*"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."*

*--1 John 4:10-11*

I find this verse very inspirational! I felt the need to testify in leu of my 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday next Friday and I trust God more than ever, also I hope to grow my spirituality in God!

I hope my testimony can help encourage everyone here and shed some light to lead you closer to God my fellow brothers and sisters to God!

Thank you so much, Abba! And lastly thank you for listening West End family for lending me your ears.