



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of April 7, 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

- What constitutes a “good church”? What are the essential marks of a faithful congregation?

I Corinthians 16:1-23

Let All You Do Be Done In Love

- This final chapter of Paul’s letter helps us to see the priorities, relationships, and practices of the early Christians. Read through verses 1-23 and write down everything you observe. Which of these elements of the Corinthian church are essential marks of any faithful church?

⁵ I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, ⁶ and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷ For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸ But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹ for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

¹⁰ When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. ¹¹ So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.

¹² Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.

¹³ Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.

¹⁵ Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints— ¹⁶ be subject to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer. ¹⁷ I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, ¹⁸ for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people.

¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ² On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. ³ And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

- Paul collected money for the needy Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. What do these verses tell us about how this collection was done?
- [Galatians 2:1, 10](#) gives us background on how the Jerusalem church not only encouraged Paul to evangelize the Gentiles, but also to care for the poor. What is the spiritual reason caring for the poor is a ministry of the church? Read [II Corinthians 8:9](#) to learn more about the reason Paul gave to the Corinthians.
- Read [Romans 15:25-28](#) for more insight into why this specific offering for Jerusalem was taken. What were Paul’s reasons?

¹⁹The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. ²⁰All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. ²²If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! ²³The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

Let's reflect on a few of the practices & relationships of the Corinthians church:

- **“Help me on my journey” (6); It was a common practice for the first century believers to support and host missionaries. How does that practice challenge or encourage you?**
- **“Pentecost” (8); The Greek name for the Jewish Feast of Weeks ([Leviticus 23:15-22](#)) that also celebrates the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon the Church ([Acts 2:1-13](#)). It is interesting that the church at Corinth marked time by the events of God's redemptive history, and not the way Rome marked time. What implications might that have for us as a church today?**
- **“Put him at ease among you” (10); Young Timothy was likely to be given a hard time by the aggressive and factious Corinthians. So, Paul gives them strong direction. Do we test visiting believers or put them at ease? How so?**

- **“Our brother Apollos” (12); It is important to see that the divisions between the Paul and Apollos factions ([1 Corinthians 1:12](#)) did not reflect a conflict between the two leaders. How do we promote the peace and purity of the church today?**
- **“Aquila and Prisca” (19); This couple helped Paul plant the church in Corinth ([Acts 18:1-3](#)). They were now working with Paul in Ephesus where they hosted a house church. What unique things happen when believers gather in homes?**
- **“Our Lord, come!” (22); The Aramaic expression *Maranatha* (here translated as “Our Lord, come!”) was so important to the faith of the early Christians that they adopted it without translation (just like *Amen* and *Halleluiah*). Eagerly anticipating the second coming of Christ was a fervent hope. What happens in your life, community, and heart when you daily look for the personal return of Jesus?**
- **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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