

1 CORINTHIANS

discussion guide

OVERVIEW FOR PART 1:

Join us as we walk through the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. We'll see the many cultural similarities between the pacific northwest and ancient Greece, as well as be challenged in how we are designed to live out the gospel through the local church.

In the first mini-series we will look to the first four chapters, where Paul deconstructs the counterfeit places we find meaning and significance, and makes his case for why Christ is the greatest person for us to look to for our status and hope for the future.

PART 1: WEEK FOUR The Power of the Spirit

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Paul wants the Corinthian church to be clear, the reason their lives were changed was not because Paul was a good communicator or a wise orator. The reason their lives were change is because the message of the gospel came in the power of the Spirit. The gospel is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16) and the Spirit of God powerfully changed their lives through it. The Spirit made know to them the thoughts of God, revealing to them the hidden wisdom of God revealed in the cross. Only the Spirit of God knows the thoughts of God. And the only way to truly know someone is to know their thoughts. Paul rhetorically ask, "Who can know the mind of God?" The Spirit of God can. And if we have believed in Jesus, we also have the Spirit which means we can also know God's thoughts. Paul says it very clearly: We have the mind of Christ.

If we know this and believe this, we will think about our role in God's mission differently and we will relate to people differently. In regard to mission, we will not put the pressure on ourselves to save anyone or change anyone's one belief about God. God's Spirit is the one who enables the gospel to be proclaimed in powerful ways that change the heart. It is not our responsibility to change hearts – only God can do that. This will result in us openly and courageously sharing our faith without the pressure we might feel if we believe it's all up to us. In regard to how we relate to people, we will approach people who believe differently than us with great humility because we know it was only through God's Spirit that we came to believe and were changed. We didn't will ourselves to believe. We didn't reason our way into faith. God had to reveal it to our hearts through the Spirit. When we remember this, we will be much more gracious to others who don't yet see what God's Spirit has enabled us to see.

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

1. What do we discover about the Spirit of God in these verses? What does the Spirit do?
2. How does this affect our relationship with God?
3. How should this affect how we relate to others?
4. What is your relationship with God's Spirit like presently?
5. In light of what God has done, how do we believe we should relate to each other?
6. How should this affect how we relate to those who don't yet know and believe Jesus?