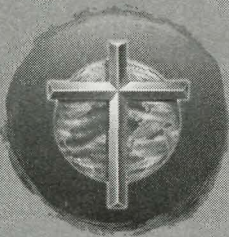


# Study Guide





# LifeLight Expands

LifeLight

Available NOW!

- |                          |                  |  |                           |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------------|
| * The Bible: An Overview | Isaiah, Pt. 1    | Acts, Pt. 1                            | **Ephesians/1 & 2 Thessa- |
| Genesis, Pt. 1           | Isaiah, Pt. 2    | Acts, Pt. 2                            | lonians                   |
| Genesis, Pt. 2           | **Minor Prophets | Romans, Pt. 1                          | Hebrews                   |
| Exodus, Pt. 1            | **Daniel         | Romans, Pt. 2                          | * James/Jude              |
| Exodus, Pt. 2            | Matthew, Pt. 1   | 1 Corinthians                          | * 1 & 2 Peter             |
| * Joshua                 | Matthew, Pt. 2   | **2 Corinthians                        | 1 John                    |
| **Life of David          | **Luke, Pt. 1    | * Timothy/Titus/Philemon               | * Revelation              |
| **Selected Psalms        | **Luke, Pt. 2    | **Galatians/Philippians/<br>Colossians |                           |
| * Proverbs               | John, Pt. 1      |  |                           |
|                          | John, Pt. 2      |  |                           |

## LifeLight Foundations

- \* Prophecy      \* Bible Feasts      \* Miracles      \* Law & Gospel      \* Baptism

\* all-new LifeLight material    \*\* does not include the Enrichment Magazine

## LifeLight Release Schedule

### 2007 RELEASES

- |                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| LifeLight—2 Corinthians         | April   |
| * LifeLight—Judges              | July    |
| * LifeLight Foundations—Worship | October |

### 2008 RELEASES

- |                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| LifeLight—Luke, Pt. 1              | January |
| LifeLight—Luke, Pt. 2              | April   |
| * LifeLight—Ruth/Esther            | July    |
| * LifeLight Foundations—Triune God | October |

### 2009 RELEASES

- |                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| LifeLight—Minor Prophets         | January |
| LifeLight—Daniel                 | April   |
| * LifeLight—Mark                 | July    |
| * LifeLight Foundations—Ministry | October |

### 2010 RELEASES

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| LifeLight—Life of David                           | January |
| LifeLight—Selected Psalms                         | April   |
| * LifeLight—Ecclesiastes/Song of Songs            | July    |
| * LifeLight Foundations—Creation/<br>New Creation | October |

### Other Future Studies:

- 1, 2, & 3 John  
Job  
Wilderness Wanderings (Lev., Num. & Deut.)  
Ezra, Nehemiah

### This helpful resource is also available:

Intro Kit

# Forgiveness and Power for Improvement

Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1.

Use enrichment magazine pp. 2–4.

## 1 Corinthians 1–2

### Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

### Hymn

Renew me, O eternal Light,  
And let my heart and soul be bright,  
Illumined with the light of grace  
That issues from Your holy face.

Remove the pow'r of sin from me  
And cleanse all my impurity  
That I may have the strength and will  
Temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord,  
That gladly I obey Your Word.  
Let what You will be my desire,  
And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only You may love  
And seek those things which are above  
Till I behold You face to face,  
O Light eternal, through Your grace.

Johann F. Ruopp, 1672–1708; tr. August Crull,  
1845–1923, alt.

(*Lutheran Worship* [LW] 373; *Lutheran Service Book* [LSB]  
704; *The Lutheran Hymnal* [TLH] 398; *Christian Worship*  
[CW] 471; *Lutheran Book of Worship* [LBW] 511; *Every Voice*  
*a Song* [EVaS] disk 6, track 29)

### Prayer

Eternal God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us Your Holy Spirit who writes the preached word into our hearts so that we may receive and believe it, and be gladdened and comforted by it in eternity. Glorify Your Word in our hearts. Make it so bright and warm that we may find pleasure in it, and through Your inspiration think what is right. By Your power fulfill the Word, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen. (Martin Luther; *The LORD Will Answer*, p. 38)

### Digging Deep

### My Personal Study for Week 1

#### Day 1 • Read 1 Corinthians 1:1–3

Paul wrote this open letter to the congregation at Corinth around AD 55. He helped to establish this congregation during his second missionary journey, about AD 52. He used the letter format of the day, identifying himself at the beginning as the author, indicating to whom he addressed the letter, and giving a word of greeting.

1. Note the credentials Paul presents in verse 1. (Jesus sent the apostles as His personal representatives and agents; see John 20:21.) Paul would have some strong rebukes and warnings to deliver in this letter. How would presenting these credentials be important to his task?

Sosthenes may have served as secretary and wrote down what Paul dictated. Paul then signed the letter (16:21).

2. Paul describes the church in Corinth as “sanctified” and “called to be saints.” *Sanctified* means “set apart for God’s purposes”; *saints* are individuals separated from sin and consecrated to God. Read John 17:17, 19 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24. What do you learn from these passages about how you are sanctified and made a saint?

3. What do the following passages reveal about how Paul learned about some of the problems in the church at Corinth?

a. 1:11

b. 7:1a

c. 16:17

4. Paul wrote this letter to help the church deal with problems such as divisions, immorality, and lawsuits. He also wanted to correct abuses connected with speaking in tongues and the Lord's Supper. He wrote to correct false teachings about the resurrection. Finally, he wanted to give instruction about the collection for the poor in Jerusalem. In approaching these serious issues, Paul wrote with a spirit of humility and dependence upon the Holy Spirit for guidance. How would such a spirit be important also in approaching problems that affect our churches today?

e. For what specific things can you thank God regarding your own congregation?

6. "The day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 8) for which the Corinthians eagerly waited (v. 7) was the return of Jesus at the end of the age. Why could Paul say that the Church would be "guiltless" (vv. 8-9) on that day? (See Ephesians 5:25-27.)

7. Factions in the Corinthian church identified themselves with certain leaders: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, and Christ (v. 12). Cephas was another name for the apostle Peter (see John 1:42). Apollos was a popular preacher; to learn more about him, see Acts 18:24-28. What problems do you think such personality cliques would cause in a congregation (vv. 10-11)?

.....  
**Day 2 • Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-17**

5. Paul writes that he "always" (v. 4) thanks God for the congregation at Corinth. State briefly in your own words the specific things mentioned in the following verses for which Paul thanked God.

a. Verse 4

b. Verse 5

c. Verse 6

d. Verse 7

8. In saying that he baptized few people, Paul is not dismissing or denying the importance of Baptism. Paul speaks of Baptism in lofty terms in other passages (e.g., Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:27). Paul is merely making a distinction between the task he was called to do and the task others were called to do. This distinction might be made by the terms *evangelism* and *nurture*.

a. How would you distinguish between evangelism and nurture?

b. How are you personally involved in each of these two critical areas of your congregation's ministry (e.g., praying for evangelism callers, teaching Sunday school)?

## What to Think about Your Pastor

Distribute before session 2 for use in session 2.  
Use enrichment magazine pp. 8–11.

### 1 Corinthians 3–4

#### Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

#### Hymn

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to nought all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise triumphantly.

O Comforter of priceless worth,  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.

Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth,  
1829–78, alt.

(LW 334; LSB 655; *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* [ELH]  
589; CW 203; LBW 230; TLH 261; EVaS disk 5, track 13)

#### Prayer

Blessed Lord, who has commanded us to love one another, grant us grace. Having received Your undeserved bounty, may we love everyone in You and for You. We implore Your mercy for all; but especially for the friends whom Your love has given to us. Love them, O Fountain of love, and make them to love You with all their heart, that they may will, and speak, and do those things only which are pleasing to You. Amen. (Anselm of Canterbury; *The LORD Will Answer*, p. 47)

#### Digging Deep

#### My Personal Study for Week 2

#### Day 1 • Read 1 Corinthians 3:1–8

1. In 3:1 Paul picks up the concept of "mature" from 2:6 but here uses the term "spiritual" and contrasts it with "flesh." Read thoughtfully verses 1–2 and

Hebrews 5:11–14. Explain what you understand these passages to mean by milk and solid food.

2. An infant must start with a diet of milk, but as time goes along the infant begins to eat solid food as well. Read Acts 20:32 and Ephesians 4:11–16 and summarize what these passages say about how Christians mature.

3. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* Reflect on your own spiritual growth. In what areas do you see yourself as needing most to grow through a more intensive use of the Word in your daily life? In what areas do you feel you have grown most?

4. Paul calls himself and Apollos "servants" to whom God had assigned specific tasks (3:5–8; 4:1).

a. What tasks had God entrusted to Paul and Apollos regarding the church at Corinth?

b. While their tasks differed, Paul and Apollos served one purpose (v. 8). What was that purpose (3:5)?

c. Paul refers to a reward God will give to all His faithful servants who go about their several tasks (3:8). How does the master reward his faithful servants in Jesus' parable, recorded in Matthew 25:19–23?

d. Consider your own role in God's kingdom. What specific tasks has God assigned to you in your daily vocation? How can you be sure your work for the Lord is not just wasted time?

6. In verses 12–15, Paul contrasts building materials that will endure (gold, silver, precious stones) to those that will not endure (wood, hay, straw). The quality of workmanship will be made evident when the Lord returns (v. 13).

a. How might churches be tempted to build using other building materials than the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

b. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* Examine your own priorities in life. How are you spending your time, talents, and treasure in ways that will endure beyond this life into heaven? Are any changes of priorities in order? Explain.

## Day 2 • Read 1 Corinthians 3:9–23

5. Paul refers to the Church by using several descriptive terms: God's field (vv. 6–9); God's building (vv. 9–13); and God's temple (vv. 16–17). Let's look more closely at the image of the building.

a. The first step in the construction of the building is laying the foundation. Paul identifies Jesus Christ as the foundation upon which the building rests (v. 11). Read Matthew 7:24–27. In what way(s) does Jesus provide a solid foundation?

b. Paul declares that he laid that foundation in Corinth. Reread 1 Corinthians 2:2 to see how he did that. What do you conclude about Paul's view of himself as a church builder from the phrases "according to the grace of God given to me" and as "a skilled master builder" (v. 10)?

7. The third word picture Paul uses is that of a temple (vv. 16–17). He is referring here not to Christians as individuals but to the whole Church as the body of believers. Just as the Holy Spirit dwells within each individual Christian (6:19), the Holy Spirit dwells with the Church as a body of believers. How can viewing the Church as the dwelling of the Holy Spirit encourage us when we are disappointed in the failings or weaknesses of fellow church members? our own failings or weaknesses?

8. What is the solution for divisions in the Church (vv. 21–23)?