



SDG Discussion Guide

1 Corinthians 1:18-36

March 31, 2019

For Starters:

What was the least useful class you took in school?

How do you feel about speaking before a group?

What person in your circle of family and friends do you feel has the most wisdom and why?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. If you could "boast" about one thing regarding yourself or your family, what would it be?
2. How does the world define wisdom? How has "God made foolish the wisdom of the world" (v 20)?
3. What do the Jews seek? What do the Greeks want? What is "Christ crucified" to the Jews? To the Gentile Greeks? How does Christ fulfill what both groups are looking for (vv 22-25)?
4. How does this passage illustrate that God's ways are not our ways?
5. What does this passage say to you about the wisdom of God versus worldly wisdom?
6. What does Paul mean when he says the message of the cross is foolish to some and powerful to others (v 18)? What has the message of the cross meant in your life?
7. What issue or decision are you facing right now for which you need God's wisdom?
8. What pictures come to mind when you think of powerful or successful people? How do these images sometimes conflict with knowing Christ?
9. How do people today confuse the world's power with God's power? How does that affect you?
10. What do you think Paul means when he says that the foolish and lowly things will shame the wise and strong? How does your life reflect this principle?

Take plenty of time to pray in your group. Ask God to reawaken you to what you have known in the past of His power - through forgiveness, healing, impact from serving others, impact from being served by others, opportunities, or any way. Listen and imagine carefully for these insights to surface. What may God be showing you? Ask God for His guidance in why He wants you to remember His power in your life. Go forth this week sharing with others what you have learned. Boast before someone new - in the power of God and what He's done on the cross that is the real source of power and love in life. Go forth in the ultimate power and love of God - in Christ Jesus the Lord.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).