

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

I Corinthians 4 - 'Detox from Division' January 23, 2022

1. Jesus' name, teaching, and example are evident in different ways in 1 Corinthians. This is important because we often forget that all the apostles wanted to do for the churches was to interpret and apply His life to their present circumstances.
Read Matthew chapter 5:3-12 for examples and compare them to I Corinthians 4:8-13. How do we see the life of Jesus being put on display in the life of the apostles?
2. Can you think of other ways how the life of Jesus (as you remember Him from any of the 4 gospels) displays some of the key teachings in I Corinthians chapter 4?
3. Suffering: "YUCK!" You can almost hear the Corinthian disdain for a vision of influence and power that includes suffering. (To be honest – I'm not too fond of this at first glance either!) But in this chapter, and in short portion we've already covered chapters **1:27-2:5**, there is a God-redeeming vision of suffering that will help the Corinthians become stronger believers. How can this make us stronger believers?
4. Extra study: In 2 Corinthians, there are some beautiful verses that help us understand how Paul had to come to grips with the fact that suffering is a part of the kingdom journey. Read **2 Corinthians 1:3-11**, and also **2 Corinthians 4:7-12**.
Where can we find comfort in suffering, and what might be some of the 'purpose' we experience when suffering for the sake of Jesus?
5. Discuss or reflect on anything that you sense God may be teaching from I Corinthians 4?

Pray for deep roots that your faith won't be shaken in times when people are so passionate they become arrogant or angry. Pray that 'after the storms' of disagreement, relationships can be mended and Christ can be honored. **Pray that the character and teaching of Jesus stays central** when it becomes hard to determine what to do.