

WALKING INTO CORINTH

1 Corinthians Intro

Ice Breaker: What are you most thankful for about our church?

BACKGROUND: First Corinthians is a letter written to a church filled with encouragement, direction and correction — it's about us as a church

THE BIG PICTURE: Written over 2000 years ago, this letter still speaks directly to our spiritual and cultural issues. Ministry is messy — God calls us to walk into our corrupt culture and touch it for Jesus *together*

DIGGING DEEPER:

INTRODUCING CORINTH ACTS 18:1-17

- Ancient Corinth was surprisingly similar to our cities and neighborhoods. How would you describe the church in Corinth? What do you notice about Corinth that is similar to our culture today?
- How might Paul feel about the beginning of his ministry at Corinth? How did Paul approach the city? What can we learn from Paul? What impact can we make in our community? What can we be doing better?

MINISTRY IS DONE TOGETHER ACTS 17:1-3 and 1 CORINTHIANS 12:14, 20-21

- Paul walked into Corinth feeling very much alone, but immediately he was joined by other believers. What difference does doing ministry with others make? What are you doing right now -- with others -- to engage in God's kingdom work?
- A big theme in the book of Corinthians is how the church works together. Every person is needed to do his/her part. Why is it necessary to work together? What happens when someone is missing and not doing his/her part? Where do you see yourself fitting in?

THE LORD SHOWS UP ACTS 18:9-11

- The Lord gave Paul a vision. How did this vision encourage Paul? What is the first thing the Lord tells Paul in the vision? What is the significance of being courageous? What other Bible verses talk about the importance of being courageous? Why is fear dangerous?
- What happens to a situation when we know the Lord is with us? What is the purpose of God's presence?
- What is the hope we are given? (See Romans 8:38-39)

WE NEED TO SEE PEOPLE THROUGH GOD'S EYES ACTS 18:12-17

- How does God see people?¹ What happens when we see others as God might see them?
- What should our mindset be regarding our culture? Why is it so easy to hate/fight our culture instead of love/serve it? How is Jesus our grand example of serving?
- Those that oppose us are not our enemy, they are our mission. How will this statement impact your life this week?

CONCLUSION:

- What do you think is the church's responsibility in modern cities like Corinth? What are the first steps we need to take to fulfill that responsibility?
- What are you expecting to learn/gain from studying 1 Corinthians?

¹ God might say: "Those are My people. I love those people. I died for those people. And by the way, you were one of those people. So don't quit, don't give up because I did not give up on you..."