

SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

To maximize benefit of this study, it's best to complete in advance.

[set up]

What was one aspects of the service this last weekend that really connected with you (maybe it was new to you, a refreshing reminder for you, or convicting to you)?

Have someone open in prayer for your group (for your hopes and goals for the time).

[digging deeper]

Review the teaching passage from Sunday - **1 Corinthian 2:1-5**.

Do your best to summarize what the Apostle Paul was communicating to the original recipients of this letter.

Paul was a highly educated individual. He had historical, cultural, political, social, and spiritual/biblical insights as well as the ability to debate, reason, and persuade his audiences to support his case of Jesus being the Jewish Messiah and the world's Savior. So why did he say what he said and take the approach he took according to verse 2?

How does verse 2 support the idea that, "what you win people with is what you have to keep them with"?

A little context and history... read the following Scripture passages:

- Acts 16:20-24 (Paul in Philipi)
- Acts 17:1-9 (Paul in Thesalonica)
- Acts 17:13-14 (Paul in Berea)
- Acts 17:32-34 (Paul in Athens)
- Acts 18:1-11 (Paul plants church in Corinth)
- 2 Corinthians 10:10 (spoken of about Paul)

After reading through these passages, how does 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 make even more sense? What connections do you see?

Take a couple minutes to brainstorm a list of benefits that come with living according to God's wisdom rather than human wisdom.



How can you determine if you are operating in merely human wisdom or godly wisdom?

Point out where you see the Gospel presence in what Paul is saying in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

Write down the last time you remember sharing Christ with someone who doesn't know Jesus. How long has it been? Is anyone open to sharing their answer?

How are you encouraged, challenged, affirmed, or convicted by what you just read in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5?

[living it out]

To help you identify an application from these verses, you can always use the acronym "SPECK." Is there a **Sin** to avoid? Is there a **Promise** to hold on to? Is there an **Example** to Follow? Is there a **Command** to obey? Is there **Knowledge** about God that I learned?

Give everyone in your LifeGroup a couple of minutes to review the teaching text in light of your time together and write down which SPECK observation(s) they have made and then share with the group.

Now, personalize that observation and share it with the group. Put it in an "I will" statement. *Example:* I noticed that in 1 Cor. 1:9, we are reminded that God is faithful. When I feel doubt, confusion, or anxiety this week, I will say out loud to myself, "God is faithful" to remind myself of this truth.

[close in prayer]

Spend time in prayer as a group. Use 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 as a prayer guide as well as your insights, convictions, and desired applications. Keep in mind how to (1) Praise God, (2) Thank God, (3) Confess to God, and (4) Make requests of God for both yourself, your group, and our church as you pray.

Notes:

