

## **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 1:18-31**.

Do your best to summarize what you just read in a sentence.

What does verse 18 mean?

What does Paul mean when he refers to “the cross”?

How do those who do not know Christ and those who do know Christ see the cross differently? Do you have any stories or examples from personal experience?

When you think about the cultural background of those who were Jewish and those who were Greek, how can we best understand the significance of verses 22-25?

FYI: “stumbling block” in the Greek is the word, “*skandalon*” where we get the word scandalous, and means trap or snare that causes one to be caught or tripped up, and “folly” in the Greek is the word “*morian*” where we get the word “moronic” and means absurd or foolish. How does that factor into how you would answer the above question?

Explain how the cross and the crucifixion of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago triumph over worldly wisdom, cultural barriers, and human boasting?

How are verses 26-31 personally encouraging to you and how can you relate to what is being said?



True or False? The verses you just read have nothing to do with the Gospel. (Explain your answer.)

What are three or four ways this passage can help motivate greater unity among believers?

**[living it out]**

If you struggle with drawing 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 1:18-31 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.

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