

## **SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE**

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

### **[set up]**

Describe a time when you felt most loved, cared for, and nurtured by a pastor or spiritual leader.

On a large Post-It, brainstorm and list 5-7 key characteristics of spiritual leaders worth following.

### **[digging deeper]**

Remind the LifeGroup about the reasons the Church at Corinth was experiencing disunity. Discuss how division destroys Biblical community.

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-13 in the English Standard Version.

Re-read 1 Corinthians 4:1-3 in the New Living Translation or some other contemporary translation or paraphrase.

Ask someone to summarize the passage in their own words, Ask the rest of the group to add details and content that he/she may have left out.

Ask, "What stands out to you in this passage?"

Ask, "What does this passage teach us about God?"

Ask, "How did Paul's use of sarcasm serve as instruction and warning for the Corinthian Christians?"

Ask, "What does this passage teach us about ourselves?"

### **[living it out]**

Ask, "What problems for the church can occur when we allow celebrity culture to flourish within the church?"



Ask, “What are some guardrails that churches and leaders can build to prevent the abuses that can come from narcissistic leadership?”

In light of the passage we’ve studied, add to your Post-it an additional 5-7 key characteristics of spiritual leaders worth following.

Ask, “What is God saying to you? About church leadership? About your own leadership?”

Give each person time to prayerfully consider their best next step based on this passage of scripture. Ask each person to create and to share an “I will” statement.

### **[close in prayer]**

End your time in prayer for the leaders of CVC. Ask the Lord to give us a next Lead Pastor who exhibits the godly traits found in 1 Corinthians 4:1-13.

