

# LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE.

## LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE. - WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED

### Community Group Study Guide - Week of August 15, 2021

#### Introduction

- The church is not an organism or organization, but an organism that is highly organized. What's at the center of an organism's DNA is what really makes it grow and maintain good health. In this series, we're talking about Mosaic's DNA, what we focus on primarily as a church so that the church might grow in depth and breadth.
- Jesus is at the center of everything that we do. The message that we stand on is: "your eternal happiness depends wholly on the death of someone on a cross."

#### The Cross is Folly (1 Corinthians 1:18-21)

- v18-19: For Jews, the cross was a stumbling block because they had theological, intellectual and emotional opposition to it. The idea of a transcendent God taking on flesh and dying on the cross was so repulsive that men like Saul (before he became the apostle Paul), hunted Christians down and terrorized them.
- For the Greeks and gentiles, the cross had many stigmas, as it was considered the form of capital punishment for the worst criminals in society. They mocked early Christians for worshipping a criminal.
- Given what the cross represented to Jewish and Greek circles, it was absolutely ludicrous when early Christians called them to worship a Jewish man of humble means (by worldly standards), who died on a cross. Today, it is still ludicrous to the world and many of Jewish descent. The message is naturally repugnant, yet so wonderful (to those who believe).

#### The Cross is Power (1 Corinthians 1:22-25)

- The Jews expected a Messiah who would repeat a triumph like the Exodus. The Greeks wanted "sophia," or wisdom... "But to those who are called..." the cross is the true delivery from the bondage of sin and the deepest source of wisdom that there is.
- How? The cross reveals the darkness inside of you, and life and light when you see that nothing short of the Son of God dying on the cross is adequate to save you from your sins.
- We can formulate "paper/resume" understandings of ourselves to try to deny our need for the cross, but as soon as we see the true weight of our sin and the holiness and justice of God, the cross becomes our only hope.
- Why did Jesus go to the cross? Love of God and love of us. 1 John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10.
- The power of the cross is revealed when this message is preached faithfully and people are saved!

#### The Cross is Wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:25-2:5)

- "Sophia" means wisdom. This word is used 17x in 1 Corinthians ch. 1-3 and only 11 times in the rest of Paul's letters. Sophia referred not only to content, but to form. The way that gospel was manifested in the world and how it is preached allows it to only make sense to nobodies, the scum of the earth (1 Cor. 4:11-13)
- Given that Christianity was an illegal religion in much of the ancient world, Christianity was propagated amongst the lowest of people in society before Constantine came to power in AD 310 (when there were ~20 million Christians). All of the growth happened in the true church of Christ when it was preached that the resurrected Christ was Lord.
- The proclamation of Christ as Lord began with Deut. 6:4 and Psalm 110:1.
- Paul even suggests in Eph. 1:20-23 that the actual function of lordship, normally associated with the Father, is now passed on to Jesus. See also, Phil. 2:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:25-28.
- Our identity and destiny as a church, therefore, must be inextricably linked to Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. He is the door, the mediator, "the Way," to peace with the Father.
- Apart from Christ, we have nothing like the church of Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22)

## DISCUSSION GOALS

### Head

To understand that the message of Christ crucified is at the center of all that we do and teach in the church.

### Heart

To place our faith in the message of the gospel.

### Hands

To keep our faith in our risen savior and Lord despite the treatment that we receive from the world.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next **Baptism Seminar** will be held on September 12 after the 11:15am service (~1PM). Meet Pastor Andy in the Temple basement.

### Mini Mo and Sunday Operations Teams still need volunteers!

These teams are always in need of new team members. Fill out an online connection card to submit interest in these teams.

We're desperate for volunteers who can **pick up coffee** starting August 22. Email [admin@mosaicboston.com](mailto:admin@mosaicboston.com).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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### **Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5**

1. Can someone summarize the main sections of the sermon?
2. How was the cross folly to the Jews of Christ's day?
3. How was the cross folly to the Greeks (and gentiles) of Christ's day?
4. How is the cross folly to people, especially those in our city, in our day?
5. How has looking at the cross revealed the "real you" to you?
6. What does it mean that the gospel is a message for "the scum of the earth"? Why is this a stumbling block to the typical person that is attracted to places like Boston and Brookline?
7. What does it mean that Jesus Christ is Lord?
8. What are some of the differences that you would find in the worship and structures of churches that don't view Jesus as Lord and churches that do view (and praise) Jesus as Lord?
9. Why would a church stop worshipping and praising Jesus as Lord?