



TEACH ME
THE BIBLE PODCAST

STUDY GUIDE

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EPISODE

1

Overview

1 CORINTHIANS

Divisions in the Church



1 Corinthians Overview

Episode 1

If you are new to the Story of the Bible or would like to review the Story:
Listen to the following TMTB Podcasts:

The Story: Understanding the “Big Story” (30 min)

Old Testament: Walk Through the Broad Story (27 min)

Timeline: New Testament Beginnings (35 min)

Letters: Paul’s Writing to the Churches–Part 1 (30 min)

The Place of the Letters in the Biblical Narrative

The Letters, also called Epistles, stand in the biblical narrative between the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus of Nazareth and His future return to rule as King. After His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus’ apostles, operating according to the Word of the LORD, stand in for the nation of Israel in blessing the Gentile nations with the “Good News” of the resurrection from the dead to eternal life in the kingdom for all who put their faith in Jesus, the Promised One of Genesis 3:15. In this part of the unfolding plot, the Church is to operate according to the words of the apostles until Jesus returns to establish His kingdom on earth. Not abandoning Israel, God is acting in this portion of the biblical narrative to make Israel jealous through the believing Gentiles, to bring the nation of Israel to repentance and restoration. When the fullness of the Gentiles is complete, Israel will be restored to God.

Read Well: They got mail. Epistles are letters.

In the biblical Story’s progressing plot, the Apostles write twenty-one letters in the time shortly after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension to instruct those who have believed in Jesus as the Promised One of Genesis 3:15. This portion of Scripture has much to say to the modern reader who also lives in this period between Jesus’ ascension to heaven and future return to earth. But before you can understand an Epistle’s personal application, first recognize it as someone else’s mail. Then, start and finish the letter in one sitting and track the pronouns as you read to determine who is writing the letter—I or we—and who the letter is addressed to—you- either you singular or most likely you plural-y’all. Do not confuse the I group with the you group and remember that the current reader is neither the letter’s writer nor the letter’s original recipient.



1 Corinthians Overview

Episode 1

DAY 1

Listen to TMTB Podcast 1 Corinthians: Overview Episode 1 (37minutes)

1. What problem is Paul writing to address? (see 1 Corinthians 1:10)
2. Paul instructs the Corinthians on what it means to be members of Christ's body. What four implications of this reality are mentioned in the Podcast (timestamp)?
3. Two types of wisdom are contrasted in Paul's letter. What are they, and why is it important to recognize their distinctions (timestamp)?
4. How does Paul's exhortation concerning godly wisdom challenge your value system?

DAY 2

Listen* or read along while listening to 1 Corinthians in the ESV or NASB translation in one sitting (58 min). Ignore the chapter and verse markers.

Listening resource

1. Track the pronouns throughout the letter. You is plural "y'all" unless expressly stated as "each of you" or "you individuals," etc., and I/We is the Apostle Paul and Sostenes and the Apostles.
2. Listen for repetition, contrast, and word pictures Paul uses in his letter.

DAY 3

Learn more about the characters in this letter.

1. Who is Sostenes? See Acts 18.
2. Who is Apollos? See Acts 18-19.
3. What are Paul's life story and purpose? Paul retells his Story in Acts 22.
4. Where does Paul's first letter to the Corinthians fit chronologically in the biblical narrative? See Acts 18.



1 Corinthians Overview

Episode 1

DAY 4

Read Well: Every Detail Matters: From Paul's opening statement in 1 Corinthians 1-17, he intentionally lays out his argument for the Corinthians. Paul exhorts the Corinthians to act in 1 Corinthians 1:10 based on what he has explained is true of them in 1:4-9. The rest of Paul's letter will explain how 1:4-9 are true and how they are to do 1:10.

1. What does Paul say is true of the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 1:4-9?
2. Because of this, how does Paul exhort the Corinthians to live in 1 Corinthians 1:10?
3. Refer back to these opening remarks as you continue reading Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

DAY 5

Come together and discuss:

1. How did treating 1 Corinthians as a letter, including reading it all at once and tracking the pronouns, impact your understanding of the book?
2. How does recognizing the one problem and solution (see daily emails) aid in your understanding of why Paul says what he says?
3. How does Paul use the imagery of a body to illustrate the reality of Christ and His Church?
4. How are the Corinthians misunderstanding the Body of Christ?
5. How do present-day followers of Christ misunderstand the Body of Christ and their place in the Body?
6. What are the implications of a correct view of the Body of Christ? Together brainstorm as many as you can.
7. How has the study of 1 Corinthians informed your faith this week?