We're thrilled that you've picked up this notebook! As we study the letters of 1 and 2 Corinthians, our prayer is that you will discover the wisdom and life-transforming power of the gospel message. May you truly understand that the message "of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18).

If you want to get the most out of this notebook,

- Attend service every week at Christ's Church and bring this notebook to take notes with
- Study the weekly passage of scripture at home and answer the questions provided in this notebook
- Listen to the ReThink podcast as the teaching team dives deeper into the weekly passage of scripture
- **Join** the Corinth Bible Reading group on the Christ's Church app (scan the QR Code on the next page)
- **Go Deeper** with the BibleProject Classroom on 1 Corinthians (scan the QR Code on the next page)

Sincerely,

Christ's Church

## **Expedition Corinth**

Week 1: September 4-10

1 Corinthians 1-3

Week 2: September 11-17

1 Corinthians 3-4

Week 3: September 18-24

1 Corinthians 5-6

Week 4: September 25-October 1

1 Corinthians 7

Week 5: October 2-8

1 Corinthians 8-11:1

Week 6: October 9-15

1 Corinthians 9

Week 7: October 16-22

1 Corinthians 11

Week 8: October 23-29

1 Corinthians 12-14

Week 9: October 30-November 5

1 Corinthians 15-16

# **Expedition Corinth**

Week 10: November 6-12

2 Corinthians 1-2:11

Week 11: November 13-19

2 Corinthians 2-6

Week 12: November 20-26

2 Corinthians 2-6

Week 13: November 27-December 3

2 Corinthians 7-9

Week 14: December 4-10

2 Corinthians 7-9

Week 15: December 11-17

2 Corinthians 10-13

## **Helpful Resources**

### Corinth Bible Reading Group



Join the Corinth Bible Reading group to get weekly messages encouraging you to read and study scripture. Have a question or a God-story? Then post it in the group chat.

#### ReThink Podcast

Each week, the teaching team will examine the weekly scripture and discuss how to study it and find its meaning in our lives. Have a question? Post it in the Corinth Bible Reading group chat, and we will try our best to answer it.



#### BibleProject Classroom: 1 Corinthians



The BibleProject offers a free online classroom experience through the letter of 1 Corinthians. Create your free account and follow along with the teaching videos to gain a deeper understanding of the text.

#### Christ's Church Sermons

Miss a sermon or want to re-listen to one? Make sure to watch the sermon each week to learn how God wants to transform you through the letters of 1 and 2 Corinthians. Each week should have two sermons, one from each of our campuses.



#### The Book of 1 Corinthians

(to be filled out as we go through this series)

Who is Paul, and why is he writing this letter?

What was happening in Corinth? What were some of the issues that prompted this letter?

### The Book of 1 Corinthians

(to be filled out as we go through this series)

What changes did Paul want the Corinthian believers to make in th individual lives?	eir
What changes did Paul want the Corinthian believers to make in th gatherings since they are the body of Christ?	eir
How should I live considering the teachings of 1 Corinthians? Who am I becoming? What am I going to change in my thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors?	

#### The Book of 2 Corinthians

(to be filled out as we go through this series)

Who is Paul, and why is he writing this letter?

What was happening in Corinth? What were some of the issues that prompted this letter?

### The Book of 2 Corinthians

(to be filled out as we go through this series)

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What changes did Paul want the Corinthian believers to make in their individual lives?
What changes did Paul want the Corinthian believers to make in their gatherings since they are the body of Christ?
How should I live considering the teachings of 1 Corinthians? Who am I becoming? What am I going to change in my thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors?

## **Background Context**

#### 1 Corinthians

Check out the following verses to help understand the background and context of the letter of 1 Corinthians.

- Acts 18:1-19 Paul's original 18-month stay in Corinth (circa AD 50-52)
- Acts 18:20-19:1 Apollos and his stay in Corinth
- 1 Corinthians 5:9 Paul, while in Ephesus, hears reports of problems within the church in Corinth. Sends the first letter that has not been preserved.
- 1 Corinthians 1:11; 7:1 Paul receives verbal reports from Chloe's household (1:11) as well as a written letter from the church in Corinth (7:1).
- 1 Corinthians 16:15-17 Paul also receives a visit from Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, which refreshed Paul's spirit as well as supported his ministry.
- 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10-12 Paul plans to send Timothy, his co-worker, to remind the believers in Corinth of the way of life in Christ Jesus. Uncertain if he ever made it to Corinth. Paul also encourages Apollos to visit the church in Corinth.
- 1 Corinthians 1:1; 16:8,21 Paul, in Ephesus, composes the letter we know as 1 Corinthians and sends it to the church in Corinth. (circa spring of AD 53 or 54)

## **Background Context**

#### 2 Corinthians

Check out the following verses to help understand the background and context of the letter of 2 Corinthians.

- Acts 18:1-19 Paul's original 18-month stay in Corinth. (circa AD 50-52)
- 1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul writes the "first letter," and the letter we know as 1 Corinthians. The problems in Corinth continue. (circa AD 53-54)
- 2 Corinthians 2:1; 12:21; 13:2 Paul's "painful" visit that is not recorded in Acts. (circa AD 55?)
- 2 Corinthians 2:3-4, 9; 7:6-16 Paul writes a "severe" letter that no longer exists. This letter may have been delivered by Titus, who reported to Paul the favorable outcome the letter had in Corinth. However, some of Paul's vocal opponents had arrived in Corinth and were causing new divisions and problems.
- 2 Corinthians 1:1; 2:13; 7:5; 8:1; 9:2-4 Paul writes the letter of 2 Corinthians, presumably from Philippi in Macedonia, to prepare the church in Corinth for his visit and the collection that would be taken to believers in Jerusalem. (circa AD 56)
- Acts 20:1-3 Paul's final visit of three months, where he writes the book of Romans. (circa end of AD 56 or beginning of 57)



## Week 1: September 4-10

1 Corinthians 1-3

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



#### Week 1: September 4-10

1 Corinthians 1-3
BibleProject Classroom Module 1

How does 1 Corinthians 1:4-17 provide insight into why Paul is writing this letter and the issues he is going to address in this letter?

What are some of the most repeated words in 1 Corinthians 1-3?

What are some of the issues causing division within the church in Corinth?

Where does real wisdom come from? How does that wisdom differ from the wisdom of the world?

Why is it so important for Paul to start this letter with the foundation of the crucifixion of Jesus?

What does Christ crucified teach us about how we should live?



(with the Christ's Church podcast)

Week 1: September 4–10
1 Corinthians 1-3

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study:



## Week 2: September 11-17

1 Corinthians 3-4

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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•	•
Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



#### Week 2: September 11-17

1 Corinthians 3-4
BibleProject Classroom Module 2

How does Paul describe the worldliness that continues in the church in Corinth? What are the signs that they are still worldly instead of living by the Spirit?

What are the different images and metaphors Paul uses to describe their new identity in Christ and the life they live by the Spirit? What does that teach us about our behavior today?

How do the actions of individual believers affect the larger community of believers? What is the identity of the community of believers according to 1 Corinthians 3:16-17?

What motives and behaviors of Paul and Apollos should the Corinthian community imitate?

In what ways does Jesus bring light to the darkness of our lives and search our motives? How does that change how you live today?



(with the Christ's Church podcast)

## Week 2: September 11-17

1 Corinthians 3-4

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study:



# Week 3: September 18-24

1 Corinthians 5-6

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



### Week 3: September 18-24

1 Corinthians 5-6
BibleProject Classroom Module 3

In 1 Corinthians 5:1-6, what is the situation Paul is addressing? What is Paul's desire for the community as well as the man in question?

In 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, how is Paul correcting a misunderstanding of his previous instructions? How should this principle guide us today?

In 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, how does their behavior outside of the community of faith contradict what should happen within the community of faith? How does Paul try to humble their puffed-up, arrogant, and boastful attitudes?

Because of Jesus Christ and the Spirit of God, what is now true of the believers in Corinth in 1 Corinthians 6:11? How do you need to be reminded of this truth?

In 1 Corinthians 6:12-17, what is the faulty thinking that Paul wishes to correct? How does what we do with our bodies affect the larger body of Christ?

What is the sexual ethic that Paul wants the community of believers in Corinth to embrace and live by?

# **ReThink It**

(with the Christ's Church podcast)

Week 3: September 18-24

1 Corinthians 5-6

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study:



## Week 4: September 25 - October 1

1 Corinthians 7

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



#### Week 4: September 25 - October 1

1 Corinthians 7
BibleProject Classroom Module 3

It is essential to note that Paul does not provide an exhaustive teaching on marriage, singleness, and slavery in this chapter. He is addressing a specific situation(s) that isn't entirely clear from the text.

Once again, Paul is addressing a faulty line of thinking/behavior in the Corinthian community. What instructions does Paul give them to follow?

How does Paul describe the attitudes and behaviors of both husband and wife in the marriage relationship? How is a Christian marriage grounded in mutual submission and authority?

What are the reasons Paul highlights that demonstrate marriage is an option, not an expectation? In what ways is singleness more desirable and better than being married?

How does the understanding that life is temporary change our perspectives on our situations?



(with the Christ's Church podcast)

# Week 4: September 25 - October 1

1 Corinthians 7

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study:
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### Week 5: October 2-8

1 Corinthians 8-11:1

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



#### Week 5: October 2-8

1 Corinthians 8-11:1
BibleProject Classroom Module 4

What "knowledge" were some in the Corinthian community using to justify their participation in dinner parties at pagan temples, where the meat in question was sacrificed to a pagan idol, and the party oftentimes would lead to sexual immorality?

What is the counterargument that Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 8:1? Instead of using their "knowledge", what motive should guide their social behavior? How does Paul continue to elaborate on this point throughout chapters 8-11?

Even though the ancient Israelites had spiritual experiences of God's Presence, power, and provision, they still participated in situations that revealed their idolatrous hearts and desire for sexual immorality. In what ways are their deaths a warning to the Corinthian community to flee from sexual immorality and idolatry?

In 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1, what are the main motives and attitudes Paul wants the Corinthian believers to imitate and demonstrate in their lives? How is that a display of Jesus?

# **ReThink It**

(with the Christ's Church podcast)

Week 5: October 2-8

1 Corinthians 8-11:1

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study:



### Week 6: October 9-15

1 Corinthians 9

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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Key Context	
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Key Teachings	
Key Application	



#### Week 6: October 9-15

1 Corinthians 9
BibleProject Classroom Module 4

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul commands the church in Corinth to imitate him as he follows the example of Christ. What is the example that Paul sets in 1 Corinthians 9?

How is 1 Corinthians 9 connected to the counterargument that Paul is making in 1 Corinthians 8-11:1?

What "rights" does Paul have as an apostle? How does he exercise that "right"? What does he want the church in Corinth to learn from his example?

What is the mindset and attitude of Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23? In what ways can we model that same attitude today?

Looking at 1 Corinthians 8-11:1, how should the church in Corinth live and behave? What motives and attitudes should drive their lives? In what ways can we apply his teachings to our lives?



(with the Christ's Church podcast)

Week 6: October 9-15

1 Corinthians 9

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study:



### Week 7: October 16-22

1 Corinthians 11



#### Week 7: October 16-22

1 Corinthians 11
BibleProject Classroom Module 4 & 7

Discussing 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, New Testament scholar Craig Blomberg writes, "This passage is probably the most complex, controversial, and opaque of any text of comparable length in the New Testament." Therefore, extra consideration and careful study are necessary before concluding what the passage says and how it applies to Christians today.

After discussing the proper usage of one's freedom in Christ, Paul shifts his focus to addressing proper behavior when the Corinthian believers gather in worship. This theme continues throughout the end of chapter 14.

As in previous sections, Paul seems to be engaging with their beliefs and challenging them to be transformed by the crucifixion of Jesus, as well as a proper understanding of the relationship between Christ and God.

In what ways are the Corinthian gatherings doing more "harm than good?"

How does Jesus' crucifixion challenge their behaviors? How does the relationship between Jesus Christ and God the Father challenge their behaviors?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Craig Blomberg, *1 Corinthians*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994), 214.

# **ReThink It**

(with the Christ's Church podcast)

Week 7: October 16-22

1 Corinthians 11

Questions I Still Have:	Things To Study:



### Week 8: October 23-29

1 Corinthians 12-14

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



### Week 8: October 23-29

1 Corinthians 12-14
BibleProject Classroom Module 5 & 6

In what ways does Paul continue the conversation about proper behavior during the worship gathering? In what ways were their worship gatherings disorderly and divisive?

Why does Paul ground this section about spiritual giftings in the oneness of the Spirit and the unity of the Spirit with Jesus and God the Father? What is the role of God the Father?

Why are spiritual gifts given to the community of believers? What role do they play? What attitude(s) does Paul desire the Corinthian community to have? How does that apply to us today?

In what ways does Paul's extended teaching on "love" demonstrate the overarching approach the Corinthian believers should have when it comes to spiritual giftings?

How are spiritual gifts temporary? How does that change how the Corinthian community prioritizes and celebrates their spiritual giftings? Is there any room for competition or power plays within the body of Christ?



(with the Christ's Church podcast)

Week 8: October 23-29
1 Corinthians 12-14

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study:



### Week 9: October 30-November 5

1 Corinthians 15-16

People Mentioned
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### Week 9: October 30-November 5

1 Corinthians 15-16 BibleProject Classroom Module 8

Why is a proper understanding of the gospel message so crucial for our lives? What is the gospel message according to 1 Corinthians 15:3-8? How does that resemble 1 Corinthians 1:18-30?

In what ways is the resurrection of Jesus the foundation of Christian faith? How does it change our present lives? How does it change our future and life to come?

According to 1 Corinthians 15:32-34, why does Paul want the Corinthian believers to "come back to their senses"? How does what they do in the present time have larger implications for life to come?

In what ways was Jesus victorious at his resurrection? In what ways will Jesus be victorious at his second coming? How will his second coming transform the world?

Why should the Corinthian believers desire the future imperishable, resurrected bodies rather than be overinflated by the "glory" they presently think they have?



# Week 9: October 30-November 5

1 Corinthians 15-16

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study:



# Week 10: November 6-12

2 Corinthians 1-2:11

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



### Week 10: November 6-12

2 Corinthians 1-2:11

Why do you think Paul starts this letter by describing God's attributes and the way he comforts his church? How do we need to remind ourselves of these truths about God?

In what ways are believers united with Christ even in their sufferings? How does Paul's perspective on suffering lead to comfort through Christ?

What role does the Spirit play in the life of believers? How do we need to remind ourselves of these truths about the Spirit of God?

How does Paul describe his missionary efforts in the Roman province of Asia? How does this correspond to Acts 19? How is his change of travel plans causing doubt about his trustworthiness?

How does Paul demonstrate his pastoral heart for the Corinthian community in this section? Why is he concerned about Satan's schemes?



Week 10: November 6-12

2 Corinthians 1-2:11

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study:



# Week 11: November 13-19

2 Corinthians 2-6

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



### Week 11: November 13-19

2 Corinthians 2-6

In 2 Corinthians 2-3, how does Paul distinguish himself from the false teachers who oppose him?

How are the Corinthian believers a testimony to Paul's ministry? How are they a living letter of recommendation in 2 Corinthians 2:2-3?

How is the new covenant, the one established through the crucified Jesus Christ, better than the old covenant established at Mt. Sinai?

According to 2 Corinthians 3, what role does the Spirit play in the new covenant? How do we need to remind ourselves of these truths?

In 2 Corinthians 3:16-18, what is now true for believers of the new covenant? How is transformation into the image of Jesus a result of the new covenant?

How have you been transformed? How are you being transformed? What areas of your life still need to be transformed into the image of Jesus?



Week 11: November 13-19
2 Corinthians 2-6

Things To Study:



# Week 12: November 20-26

2 Corinthians 2-6

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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•	•
Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



### Week 12: November 20-26

2 Corinthians 2-6

How does the "therefore" in 2 Corinthians 4:1 connect what follows in 2 Corinthians 4 to what Paul previously said in 2 Corinthians?

What is true about Jesus, according to 2 Corinthians 4:4-6? How can we remind ourselves of these truths about Jesus?

How is Paul trying to change their perspective on this life, considering what is to come? What images does he use in 2 Corinthians 4-5 to describe the temporary bodies we live in? What does he want us to focus our attention on?

Why do you think Paul reminds them of the Holy Spirit in 2 Corinthians 5:5? Why is that truth so important for believers? How does that provide endurance and the strength to live godly lives?

Because of Christ, what is now true for believers according to 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2? What is our identity and purpose in Christ? What does this section teach us about the gospel message?



# Week 12: November 20-26

2 Corinthians 2-6

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study:



# Week 13: November 27-December 3

2 Corinthians 7-9

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



### Week 13: November 27-December 3

2 Corinthians 7-9

What is the picture that Paul paints of his time in Macedonia according to 2 Corinthians 7:5? How did God comfort him and the rest of the believers he was with?

What is the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow? What do each of them produce?

What is the definition of repentance?

How was the grace of God working in and through the Macedonian churches? What were they facing? Did that stop them from being generous?

What does Paul want the Corinthians to do in 2 Corinthians 8? Is Paul more concerned with the amount of the gift or the giver's willingness to give?



# Week 13: November 27-December 3 2 Corinthians 7-9

Questions I Still Have:	Things To Study:



# Week 14: December 4-10

2 Corinthians 7-9

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



### Week 14: December 4-10

2 Corinthians 7-9

How is Jesus Christ the example and model of generous, sacrificial giving in 2 Corinthians 8:9?

Why is Paul sending Titus and other brothers in Christ to prepare the Corinthian community for Paul's visit? What is Paul wanting the Corinthian community to do before he arrives?

How does a generous spirit demonstrate trust and confidence in God's provision? As followers of God, where does our sense of security come from—ourselves or from God?

How will their generous offering impact other believers in other church communities?

How is God leading you to be generous?



Week 14: December 4-10

2 Corinthians 7-9

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study:



# Week 15: December 11-17

2 Corinthians 10-13

Scriptures Mentioned	People Mentioned
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•	•
Key Context	
Key Teachings	
Key Application	



#### Week 15: December 11-17

2 Corinthians 10-13

How does Paul defend his apostolic authority throughout 2 Corinthians 10-13? How are his opponents trying to undermine his authority and teachings? What truth does he reveal about Satan and the connection his opponents have to Satan?

How do Christians wage war according to 2 Corinthians 10:4-5? How does this align with what Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians 6:7 and Ephesians 6:10-20?

According to 2 Corinthians 11:2-3, why is Paul concerned with their purity and devotion to Christ? How is this demonstrated throughout 2 Corinthians 10-13?

What truths does Paul reveal about God's power working through his weaknesses? How does that affect how we live today?

Why does Paul want the Corinthian community to examine and test themselves? How is restoration the goal of this entire letter as well as the gospel message? In what ways do we need to test and examine our lives? What needs to change?



Week 15: December 11-17
2 Corinthians 10-13

Questions   Still Have:	Things To Study: