

LIFE GROUP GUIDE - Week Starting Sunday 28th July

1 Corinthians 16

This Week's BIG IDEA

This week we come to the end of our journey through 1 Corinthians. In the first four verses Paul focuses on one more issue – the issue of giving. Then in the final verses of the letter we see Paul's life shaping commitment to his calling and his passion for the church. Though Paul is totally clear on his own personal calling under God, he is also aware that he cannot, and should not, be isolated or seeking to build a "ministry". In his numerous pastoral references to co-workers and friends Paul reveals the pastoral heart that is the foundation of his life and this letter.

Focussing on God

We do not sing many songs that remind us of our corporate calling and God's heart for community. Use this modern reworking of the Apostles Creed to remind one another of our corporate faith and then spend some time praying for one another.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzT26YVer24>

Getting into Scripture

Read together 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

- What are the 4 or 5 biblical principles on giving that Paul identifies in these verses?
- How might we apply these principles in our lives today?
- Why do you think we find it easier to talk about our prayer lives, or our disciplines around reading scripture, than we do to talk about our giving?

Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-24

- How many different names does Paul mention in these verses?
- What do Paul's references to others and the tone of his language tell us about his relationships?

Time to Reflect

As we come to the end of the letter spend some time reflecting on what we have studied over the last 7 months. What will you take away from this letter? How has it shaped your understanding or attitudes about some of the subjects that Paul has spoken into?

Time to Pray

Take some time thanking God for his word and praying for those who do not have easy access to scripture.

This week we have 70 people away at Newday, including 42 teenager, 5 children and 23 adults serving in different capacities. Spend some time praying for them, that they would have a great time and would meet with God in powerful ways.