

## LIFE GROUP GUIDE - Week Starting Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June

### 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

#### **This Week's BIG IDEA**

In his excellent commentary on 1 Corinthians Andrew Wilson describes this passage as fiendishly difficult to understand! Andrew is a good friend of mine and has a brain the size of a planet, so if he finds it tricky it is not surprising that we may find aspects of the passage challenging. However, we must do our best and I would encourage you to listen to the online sermon this week ahead of your Life Group meeting. Though there are challenging aspects the passage clearly declares the equality of men and women, whilst also speaking of authority and submission. These are challenging words to work with given our culture and many people personal experience, but they are key biblical concepts that enable us to enjoy the fullness of life that Jesus promises (John 10:10).

#### **Focussing on God**

Jesus models perfect authority and perfect submission in his incarnation. Spend some time as a group meditating on Philippians 2:1-11 to help you fix your eyes on Jesus. You could also use this classic Easter hymn to lead you into a time of thankful worship.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s83MsV3kocl>

#### **Getting into Scripture**

Read together 1 Corinthians 11:2-16.

Spend 5 minutes re-reading it as individuals, noting down anything that stands out to you personally.

Give space for people to share what they have noted down.

Use the following questions to help draw out the meaning of the text, and possibly help answer some of the questions that you have of the text:

1. What is the context of the passage?
2. What questions from the Corinthians do you think Paul is trying to answer (1 Corinthians 7:1)?
3. What was the cultural significance of hair styles and head coverings in 1<sup>st</sup> century Corinth?
4. What is it in the text that suggests that Paul's teaching on authority and submission ("headship") is not simply a cultural reference?
5. Jesus is the perfect demonstration of both authority and submission – where else in scripture do we see examples of Jesus teaching on, or demonstrating both these characteristics?
6. How might we apply biblical authority and submission in our context?

#### **Time to Pray**

Unfortunately, we have too many examples of unbiblical authority in our world today. We need to pray for healing for those who have suffered under oppressive and abusive authority. Make space for people to be open if they have suffered in this way. Pray for those in authority and for one another that we might carry authority as Jesus did, with a servant heart and a desire to release, include and empower others.