<u>**LIFE GROUP GUIDE wb 28 January 2024**</u>
<u>**Key passage: 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5**</u>

This Week's BIG IDEA: This week we continue to unpack the first big theme that Paul addresses in 1 Corinthians – Unity in the Church. Last week we saw that the root of their disunity was pride. This week we go deeper in exploring the power of the cross and the importance of keeping what Jesus accomplished through it at the centre of everything we teach and everything we have to say to the world around about our faith.

Focusing on God.

Suggested song; Nothing but the Blood - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96VV_ioV-7g

Please read Philippians 2:5-11 – suggest people pick a verse and reword it into a personal prayer of thanksgiving or worship to Jesus.

Opening God's Word.

1) Please read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.
   - What is your emotional reaction to being described in the terms that Paul uses in v26-28?
   - How does seeing ourselves in these terms promote unity in the church?
   - In what ways is the kingdom of God an *"upside-down kingdom"* when compared to worldly kingdoms like the Roman Empire?
   - What does this passage imply about the way we should expect mainstream culture (the world) to respond to the message of the cross? (Perhaps read Luke 6:22-26 and John 15:18-19 if you are uncertain?). Is this your experience as a believer in an unbelieving world?

2) Please read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
   - If we can't rely on eloquent words or miracles alone to convince people, but only on the Holy Spirit's power to reveal the truth; What does that imply about the importance of praying for unbelievers?
   - Does that mean we shouldn't even try to persuade people (read 1 Peter 3:15-16)?
   - What is the message of *"Jesus Christ <u>and</u> him Crucified"* v2? How would you sum it up in simple terms? Refer to 2 Corinthians 5:21or Isaiah 53:3-6 if you get stuck.

Time to pray.

Spend time praying for *"a demonstration of the Spirit's power"* (v4) in revealing truth to your non-believing friends, neighbours, family, colleagues, etc – pray that he might use you as part of this.