

Pursuing the Best

Week of Mar. 20th
1 Corinthians 14:1-25

We are equipped and called to build up the church, and for that to happen we need clarity and one another. When some in Corinth began to place an undue emphasis on the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues, the apostle Paul reminds them of their need to encourage each other and of the vital role their witness plays before a watching world.

1. Discuss your personal experiences with the spiritual gifts of tongues and prophecy. Do you have experiences with them being used properly or misused as Paul describes?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-5. Why does Paul say that the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues? How would it benefit you to pursue love and the building up of others in this season?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 14:6-12. Paul wanted to make sure there was no barrier to the gospel and that everyone could clearly understand the message of hope.
 - Can you recall a time when you felt like an outsider? What did that feel like? What would have helped you to feel more included as a part of the group?
 - In what ways can we knowingly or unknowingly make others feel like outsiders?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 14:13-19. Why do you think it's important for both our mind and our spirit to be engaged in our relationship with God and in our worship? In what ways can engaging both mind and spirit help to draw outsiders in as well? How might engaging just the mind or just the spirit be a turn off to unbelievers? How might (or have) you responded to those who believe that to be a follower of Jesus, you need to pick either faith or reason?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 14:20-25. Paul challenges the Corinthians to move beyond childish ways of what would only benefit them and to think of the needs of the outsiders.
 - Throughout the whole letter, he asks them to place their own desires (sinful, neutral and even good desires) aside, for the sake of others. What are some of the stumbling blocks to the gospel that Paul covers in his letter to the Corinthians?
 - How do you see these same stumbling blocks play out today?

In your breakout groups, pray for one another and that we would be people who draw others TO Christ instead of being a barrier, preventing them from coming to Christ.

NOTES:

OTHER RESOURCES

READY TO GO DEEPER?

Studying God's Character and Attributes

Each week we will study a different facet of God's character. Our prayer is that it will enrich our worship of Him, and that our trust in Him will grow as we seek to follow and glorify Him.

This week we will study God's heart for the outsider and the foreigner

(written by Karin Harper)

The Apostle Paul had such a heart for the unbeliever and the outsider, and that love came from God. We can see examples all throughout the Old and New Testament of how God cares for the foreigner, reaches out to the outsider and loves the ones that the culture overlooked and undervalued.

Read the following passages and look for how God loves and cares for the outsider...

Genesis 21:8-21
Leviticus 19:9-10, 33-34
Duet. 10:12-22
Psalm 146
Matthew 25:34-40
Luke 10:25-37
John 4:1-45

What do you learn about God's heart in these passages?

How can we reflect His heart of love and seek to care for those who may be considered outsiders or foreigners?

How did God pursue your heart when you were an outsider to faith?

How can we be bridge builders instead of stumbling blocks?

Outside our Walls ACTS Saturday – Apr. 17th

Our ACTS ministry is one of the tangible ways we can Love Well in our community.

April 17th, we have our ACTS Saturday. Join friends from your campus in a local serving project. We'll have fun, spread hope and make a difference in our community. Bring your community group, family or friends along!

You can find all the opportunities for your campus and sign up here...

<http://www.woodmenvalley.org/acts>

DIVE IN ON YOUR OWN TO GET READY FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Gathered on Purpose

1 Cor. 14:26-40