



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF JULY 7, 2024 | STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

WARM-UP QUESTION

Would you say it's easy or difficult for you to admit or recognize your own weaknesses?

DISCUSS

Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's sermon. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-23

- What does it mean that the message of the cross is "foolish" to those who are headed for destruction but it is "the very power of God" to those who are being saved?
- Why do you think there is such a stark difference in perception?
- How does this verse challenge our society's view of wisdom and knowledge?
- Can you think of examples in the Bible or in your own life where human wisdom fell short in understanding God's wisdom?
- What does this passage say about the relationship between faith and human intellect? And how does this perspective affect the way we share the gospel?
- What personal experiences have you had in which the message of the cross transformed your understanding or challenged your perspectives?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:24-25

- Paul describes Christ as "the power of God and the wisdom of God" to those who are called. What do you think Paul means by describing Christ in this way? And how does this description challenge or affirm your understanding of Jesus?
- In what ways have you experienced Christ as the power of God in your life?
- In what ways have you experienced Christ as the wisdom of God in your life?
- Paul states, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." What do you think Paul is trying to convey by comparing God's "foolishness" and "weakness" to human wisdom and strength? How does this impact the way you view wisdom and strength?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

- Paul reminds the Corinthians to consider their own calling, noting that not many of them were wise, powerful, or of noble birth. Why do you think Paul emphasizes the social status of the Corinthians at the time of their calling?
- How does this emphasis on their lack of worldly status impact your understanding of God's calling and grace? In what ways can this verse encourage those who may feel insignificant or unworthy?
- Why do you think God often chooses to work through what the world considers lowly and despised? How can recognizing this truth impact the way we view and treat others?
- Can you think of a time when you experienced God working through unexpected or humble means?
- How do the attributes of Christ (wisdom, righteousness, holiness, and redemption) influence our identity as believers?
- What do you think it means to boast before God? Why do you think it's important for us to understand that our achievements or status do not give us grounds for boasting before God?
- How does recognizing that our standing in Christ is entirely because of God affect our sense of security and gratitude?
- In light of this passage, how can you move towards cultivating humility in your own heart and life?

RESPOND

- How can we practice boasting in the Lord in our everyday lives?
- What are some specific ways you have seen or experienced boasting in the Lord bringing glory to God and blessing to others?
- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? When will you do it?
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals or areas of struggle that came up in your discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is and ask Him to help you apply what He's prompting you to do this week.