



Connect Discussion Guide

11.07.21 Message | Keith Ehresman | I Corinthians 1:4-9

Key Scriptures:

“Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

“I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”

- 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

- Ephesians 2:8-10

Message Highlights:

- We live in a culture that impacts how we think.
- In this series, we will move from thinking, to ReThinking, to being thankful for the ability to think as Jesus would have us to.
- The Church belongs to Jesus, not us! This truth takes away our ability to boast and rather, it highlights Jesus’ rich mercy and graciousness.
- Grace is the fuel for our ongoing relationship with God and man.
- Imagine the potential of what we can accomplish through our collective generosity

Conversation Starter:

Women, do you relate to the tendency to overthink? Men, do you relate to the tendency to underthink? What are the benefits of making an effort to meet somewhere in the middle of the spectrum, and how would one go about doing that?

Discuss the Message:

1. Why does Paul give thanks in 1 Corinthians 1:4? How does the discipline of gratitude enrich, refresh and renew our relationship with God?
2. Take a moment to imagine what church would be like with no boasting. How does Ephesians 2:8-10 take away our ability to boast? Why do you suppose we struggle with pride?
3. Turn to 1 Corinthians 1:7-9; read it as it is written to “us” today. Reflect on the fact that Jesus started the church with imperfect people; what does this show us about Jesus? How does his use of ordinary, broken human beings as vessels of his grace convict you to reimagine what generosity looks like?
4. “He that gives all, though but little, gives much; because God looks not to the quantity of the gift but to the quality of the givers” (Francis Quarles). The idea that God would choose to use us is amazing. Do you sense the belief he has in each one of us to live out our generosity? How are you being called to practice generosity this ReThink season?
5. Have you benefited from the resources the BibleProject offers? If so, share your experience with your group. How do you think the BibleProject could equip you personally and Madison Park collectively to be better equipped to share the gospel?
6. The BibleProject inspires and equips believers to read through the bible in one year. Have you ever read through the entire bible in one year? Discuss with your group what specific goals you have for getting into the word in 2022.

Pray:

Father in Heaven, we thank you for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus. Jesus, we desire to know the power of your resurrection and we understand that we must also share in your sufferings. Grant us the grace, by your Spirit, to embrace the loss of the things we cling to in order that we might gain the even greater things that you have in store for us. We want to live in such a way that others can follow our example as we follow you. Help us to stand firm in you, Lord. Amen.