

Life Group Guide

1 Corinthians 2: *Don't Be That Guy*

May 28-Jun 3, 2017

Prep:

Please make sure to review the material in the guide and pray prior to your group so you are mentally and spiritually prepared for the conversation in your Life Group. Please send an email or text to invite people to the final gathering.

Welcome:

Take a few minutes to reconnect with your group and ask about their Memorial Day weekend. You can also let them know that LG's will likely be beginning the second week of September and you are excited to have them back (*if you aren't returning as LG leader, let them know, and that you will help them find a new group with the church's help*).

Video:

Show the video. It is about 3 minutes long. It will set up the conversation for your gathering.

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 2 (NLT) Paul's Message of Wisdom

When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. **2** For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. **3** I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. **4** And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. **5** I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

6 Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. **7** No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. **8** But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. **9** That is what the Scriptures mean when they say,

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
and no mind has imagined
what God has prepared
for those who love him.”

10 But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. **11** No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. **12** And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

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13 When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. **14** But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. **15** Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. **16** For,

“Who can know the Lord's thoughts?
Who knows enough to teach him?”

But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

Pause For Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes to pause and reflect, write down questions or observations on the passage or video with Pastor Jonathan, and make connections to your own life or what you've been learning in your own faith journey.

You may want to choose a question or two below to really get people thinking about something you'd like to spend some good discussion time on. I have put a star by my favorite questions.

Questions for Discussion:

(Choose your favorites ahead of time that you think will benefit your group the most)

1. Observation: In verses 1-5, Paul writes about not using his language to try to impress, but to make way for the Holy Spirit to do his work.
 - a. *Question: How can we tell if our words are simply honoring us or honoring to God?
 - i. What are examples of our words pointing towards us that we may not recognize as doing so?
2. Observation: Verses 1-5 suggest there is a difference between speaking wise words and speaking words that honor God.
3. (Similar question to #1. I suggest ask either #1 or this). The beginning verses seem to suggest that we should meet people where they are and to point them to the power of God (not ourselves) (verse 5).
 - a. How can we as Christians point people towards Christ with our language?
4. Verse 9 says, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him”?
 - a. What does it mean to be in awe of God or marvel at his wonder?

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5. Observation: Verses 13 & 14 seem to explain the theme of this passage. The attraction of the Kingdom of God is not the same as the principles that attracts the world. The Kingdom of God does not operate the same way the world does. In the world, the weak are there to serve the powerful. But in the Kingdom of God - and Jesus' sermon on the Mount - the meek inherit the earth. The Kingdom values are upside down from the world's values.
 - a. *So how can we live life in this upside down Kingdom rather than pursuing life in the way that those who don't yet know Jesus do?
6. For someone who hasn't accepted God, often times the values of God can seem offensive. So why do we as Christians expect the world to live like us when they have not yet met Jesus? In what ways do you see this play out for Christians in our world?
 - a. How do we bring people into the Kingdom who are antagonistic of the Kingdom values?
7. Observation: Many of us find it hard to imagine the Holy Spirit. We think of the Spirit as either an ethereal floating cloud or like a blazing fire. But, as we learned earlier this year, the Spirit is a person. An important member of the Trinity. The Spirit reveals the key values of God and the heart value of God. The Spirit allows us to see the world the way God sees the world.
 - a. How do you view the role of the Holy Spirit in your life?
 - b. How can we increase our desire to follow the Holy Spirit?

Feel free to take extra time to pray and connect to close your last group of the season and encourage them to be in touch through the summer!

Thanks for being an awesome life group leader! Hope to see you this coming Wednesday at 7pm at Pastor Bob's house for our Life Group Leader celebration!