

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: BEING GOD'S PEOPLE

The Church is a complex and often messy place with people at different stages in their walk with Jesus. Seeing every part of life (individually and together) through the Gospel lens of a whole new life in Christ sounds good in theory, but in reality, living what you say you believe is a lifelong process... This is a letter that relates to each of us grappling with how to be God's people, as well as to us as a church family grappling with how to be a community that practices being God's people together, living in the tension between the Biblical text and our context today.



WHEN YOU MEET:

Fortnight starting Sunday 3 September

TESTIMONY TIME: Have one person in the group share what they've been learning about Jesus.

PRAY: Share praise points and pain points, and think about who else around us might need prayer (e.g. our Mission Partners and those they are reaching)

READ: 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

DISCUSS: *NOTE: the passage-specific questions are on the next page...*

1. What especially challenges or inspires you in this passage and why?
2. What does this passage reveal about being God's people in Australia today?
3. What does this passage say about finding and sustaining unity as God's people?
4. What does this passage reveal about identity or purpose as God's people?
5. How does this passage lead you to a greater reliance on the Holy Spirit?

PRAY: Take 10 minutes to work through Examen together. You may want to allow a few moments, afterwards, for people to share what happened. Find more information and audio files on the website:

<https://grlc.org.au/2020/10/08/daily-examen/>

MORE RESOURCES:

- Discipleship Resources Hub: grlc.org.au/discipleship-resources/
- Latest sermon: <https://grlc.org.au/grlc-hub/>



PASSAGE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

1. "Sexual immorality" (see verses 9 & 13) - 'pornea' - means any sexual activity outside of the covenantal framework of marriage between a man and a woman. If you have time, discuss why you think the Biblical framework for sex and marriage is so challenging for people today.
2. Over the past 2 weeks, Scott has highlighted 3 popular attitudes that had influenced the Corinthian church:
 - 1 Corinthians 6:12 "I have the right to do anything," you say
 - 1 Corinthians 6:13 You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both."
 - 1 Corinthians 7:1 "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."

For each slogan (above dot points), discuss the following questions:

- What is the underlying cultural attitude or belief being expressed?
 - What is Paul's response to this attitude?
 - How might this verse be perceived in today's culture?
 - Ask the group which slogan most produces a response in them and why.
3. 1 Corinthians 7:2-7 talks about mutual duties, responsibilities, agreements and authority between a husband and a wife around the stewarding of their relationship, particularly the emotional connection. What has worked well in stewarding love and connection in your relationship, and what has been most challenging to the emotional health and intimacy of your relationship through the different stages of life?
 4. What advice would you give two people planning on getting married about how to build a strong, balanced and lasting Christian marriage that is mutually satisfying?
 5. God designed us with desires for intimacy and sex. These desires are good but also very powerful. What does it mean to neither fear desire nor give into desire but to steward desire in our lives in a way that honours God, others and ourselves?
 6. Jesus was the most fully human, fully alive and fulfilled man to ever live... And He was single and celibate. So, there must be more to fulfilment and flourishing than simply what marriage and sex can offer. Discuss.

