

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 17 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 7:17-35

DISCUSS: *The general questions are on the next page...*

1. A 2022 report from the Australian Institute of Family Studies has found there has been an increase in Australians living alone, with over 25% of households occupied by one person, and is rising. Are you surprised by this? Why or why not?
2. Lara said, "One of the biggest problems we have in our culture and in our world today is that we don't have many positive pictures of singleness." Do you agree or disagree? Discuss.
3. Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 together. What is the point that Paul is making here in both illustrations of circumcision and slavery? Discuss.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 7:25-31. What stands out to you? What is the encouragement Paul is giving us?
5. What do you think might be the challenges for single people in our churches today? What might valuing singleness look like in our church, and how do we make sure GRIC is a place where single people feel as central and included as married people?

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/>



GENERAL QUESTIONS:

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?

