1 Corinthians

Leader Guide | Week 4

Leader Note: Start your group by reading the entire third chapter of 1 Corinthians. It may seem like it takes more time than you have to read this week's entire chapter, but it is valuable. It may be the most important thing you do in your group. Trust the promise of God.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not run to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:9-11, NIV)

Scriptures Used In This Week's Sermon

- 1 Corinthians 3:1-23

Key Things You Heard

- Maturity shows up in:
  - Ability to handle harder teaching
  - Ability to feed themselves
  - Ability to push beyond petty emotions
  - Ability to recognize their role in the kingdom
  - Ability to wait on a heavenly reward
  - Ability to recognize their new reality
  - Ability to recognize that there is no foundation other than Jesus
  - Ability to live with the end in mind
  - Ability to seek the approval of God

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Look Back

- Have everyone share something that they are thankful for this week.
- Have everyone share something that they struggled with this week. After each person shares, have someone in the group pray for them.
- Last week, you wrote what God wanted you to do on an index card. How did it go? Did you do what God told you to do? Why or why not?
- SAY: "Share about a time this past week when you shared with someone the change God is making in your life or when you told someone about Jesus."

Look Up

- Pray - Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind, ears, and eyes to the things of God. Ask Him to show you what you need to change and do.
- Read the following passage and then hold your discussion.
  - 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

(**Leader Pro Tip:** Have your group read each passage twice in two different versions. Then, have them retell the story in their own words. Follow this up by reading the passage and correcting any omissions or mistakes. This solidifies the story in their minds and lets them realize they can use it in their own words when needed.)

1. What did you like about this passage?
2. What did you find challenging or hard to understand in this passage?
3. What did you learn about people?
4. What did you learn about God?
5. Who in my life this week needs to hear this story, my story, or God's story of redemption?

(**Leader Pro Tip:** If you want to deepen your discussion, add **SPEC** to the above questions. **S** = Is there a sin to avoid? **P** = Is there a promise to claim? **E** = Is there an example to follow or not follow? **C** = Is there a command to obey?

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Look Forward

Leader Note: You will need one index card and a pen or pencil for each participant in your group.

(**Leader Pro Tip:** I Will Statements) For the exercise below, have everyone turn this challenge into two "I will…" statements. For instance, "I will change (X) in my life…" and "I will share my faith, the gospel, or this Bible story to (_____.) The following week, follow up on their I-will statements. Don't forget that a leader leads by example.

- Pass out one index card and a pen or pencil to each participant. Instruct them to pray this prayer: "God, how can I obey and apply what I have learned in my time in the Word today?" Then, have them write down what they will do before next week. Have everyone share what the Holy Spirit has led them to do. Then, have them identify a person they will share their faith with.