

Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | July 17, 2022

Begin with Scripture, silence, and prayer (5 minutes).

Read Psalm 119:1-16 to begin your time together. As we continue in our sermon series, we want to orient our hearts and minds to knowing and loving God. Use this passage to help you do just that as you get started.

After you've finished reading, have a specified person in the group pray.

Read Scripture and debrief the sermon (40 minutes).

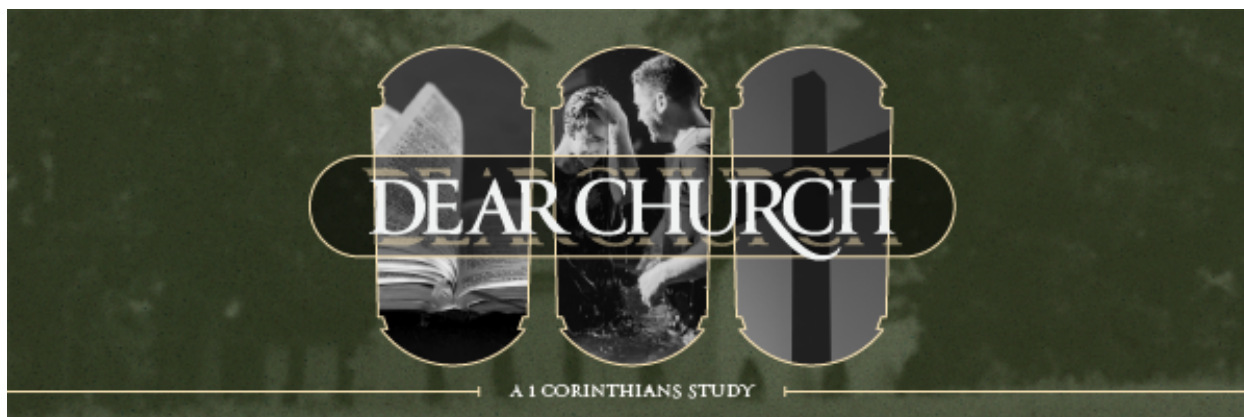
Select a few of these questions that you think may be the most fruitful for your group's discussion. Remember, you're discussing the reality that God wants us to consider our calling our "chosenness" so that no one may boast in anything but Christ alone.

You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.

Icebreaker: Is there anything significant in your life that you've changed your mind on? What was it? What led you to change your mind?

Discussion Questions:

- How would you describe this weekend's sermon? What about it resonated with you? What challenged you?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.** Summarize what Paul is saying to the Corinthians in these verses. What is he wanting the Corinthians to understand?
- After talking about three areas of "foolishness" in **1:18-25**, Paul mentions that he has wisdom to share with the Corinthians in verse 6. What are those three areas of foolishness?
- Why does Paul make it clear that he *actually* has wisdom to offer the Corinthians?
- For Paul, the difference in how one views various kinds of wisdom is a matter of what spirit you're viewing said wisdom through. What three "spirits" does Paul mention in **verses 10-12**?



- How do discern between what is of your own spirit, the spirit of the world, and God’s Holy Spirit?
- In his sermon, Dan mentioned how people typically think through issues. He mentioned that people go through the lenses of personal intuition, peer opinion, and pragmatic reasoning. Then, he said Christians should think through issues differently – through biblical authority, through Christian tradition, and through theological reasoning. How do you usually come to a stance on different issues? The first approach? The second? Or a mixture? Explain.
- **Read Romans 12:2 and James 1:5-8.** How do these passages relate to what we read here in **1 Corinthians**?
- What is one main takeaway you have from this message and these passages of Scripture?

Bonus Practice:

Take some time in your group to practice juxtaposing worldly thinking with Christian thinking.

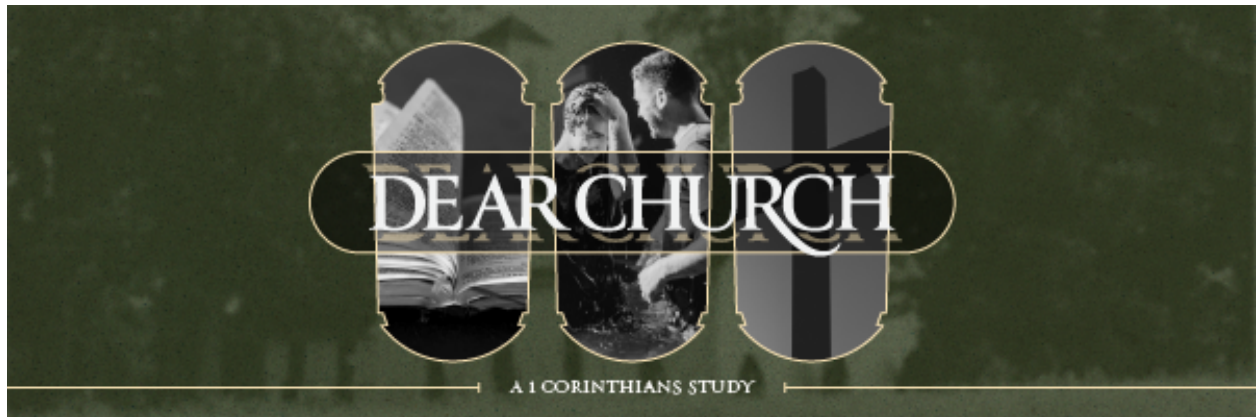
You’ll want to begin by picking a topic to think through: it could be work/life balance, shopping, retirement, eating, parenting, conflict resolution, etc. The topics are endless. For this exercise, I’d recommend choosing one that isn’t very controversial!

Make sure as you think through an issue or topic, you ask for wisdom and guidance from God’s Spirit. He’ll help you (**James 1:5**).

Have each person in your group think about the selected topic (take shopping, for example) through the lenses Dan gave us. First, have your group assess what most people’s stance on shopping is when it comes to their personal intuitions, their peer’s opinions, and their pragmatic reasoning.

Then, have each person think again through the topic of “shopping” by asking these questions:

1. What does the Bible say about it? For example, if you chose the topic “shopping” or “consumerism”, you might reference **Hebrews 13:5; 1 John 2:15-17; Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:15-21; Luke 12:33-34; 1 Timothy 6:17-19**).
2. What does Christian tradition say about it? It’s okay if you’re not sure about this one.



3. What would theological reasoning tell us about it? For example, regarding our shopping topic, you might ask yourself here: what kind of life did Jesus live? Was it full of possessions or was it one of simplicity? How should this impact my consumer choices?

Once you've finished thinking through these questions with God's help, debrief your thoughts with your group! Ask your group the following:

- What was thinking through that topic like for you?
- Did anything surprise you?
- Where did you land in your thinking (if anywhere)?

Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.