

Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | November 13, 2022

Open with prayer (5 minutes).

Take a few minutes to acknowledge God's presence as you begin your group time. Ask Him to help your group have a good discussion and to help you internalize the Scriptures.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 aloud for your group twice (10 minutes).

Allow them space after the first reading to prayerfully consider what word or phrase from this passage struck them. After the second reading, have each person, in the quiet, offer up a prayer to God based on the word or phrase that resonated with them.

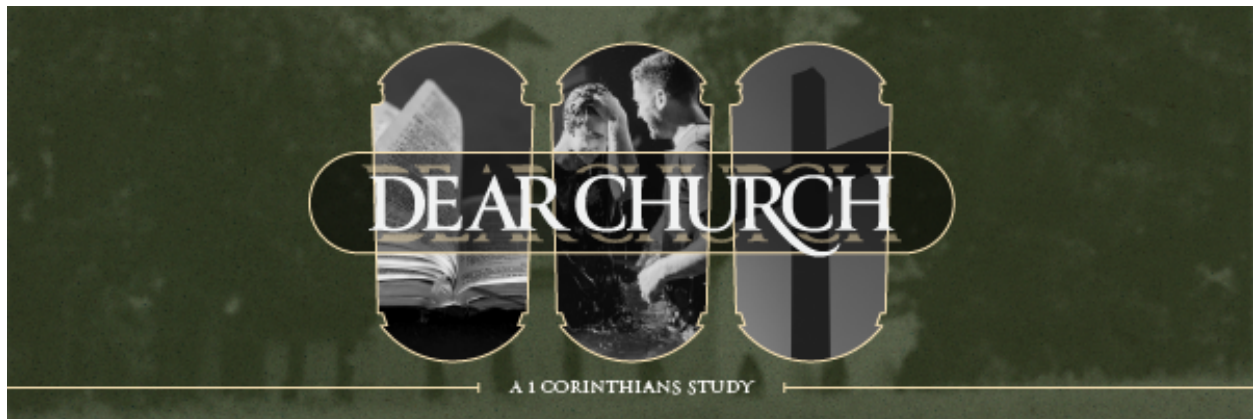
²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷ No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

After prayer, invite your group to share what resonated with them and why.

Once you've finished reading, take some time to debrief the sermon (30 minutes).

Select a few of these questions to help you discuss through the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.

- “Run in such a way as to get the prize.” What is the “prize” or the “crown that will last forever” that Paul is after? How might passages like **2 Timothy 4:6-8**, **James 1:12**, and **1 Peter 5:4** shed some light on this?
- What are the obstacles in your life that are holding you back in your pursuit of that “prize”? What specific distractions are present? What specific discouragements?
- **Read Hebrews 12:2**. What would it look like to fix and focus your eyes on him in this season?
- In his sermon, Chad talked about how we must “grow through what we go through.” What sort of adversity is present in your life that’s affecting your relationship with Jesus? How might Jesus be wanting to meet you in the adversity?



- Chad also mentioned in this sermon that we must say “no” to some things in order to say “yes” to greater things. What “greater things” are you saying “yes” to right now? What things have you had to say “no” to because of this? How does this mentality translate to your walk with God?
- What would it look like for you to partner with God by saying “yes” to him in the areas of your time, talent, treasure, and tithe?
- “No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.” After reading this verse, Chad talked about how we must finish what we started, and we must finish strong. What would it look like for you to finish strong the race you’re in? How does knowing you’re running *from* a place of victory and not just *for* a chance at victory change how you run?

Have a prayer moment (10 minutes).

As you wrap up your group time, take a moment to pray. Instruct your group to have a moment of quiet. Have them quietly ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind something from this night’s discussion that they need to carry with them from this place.

After a moment of reflection, have each person share with the group what they are taking away from the night’s discussion.

Then, after a few moments, have an open time for people to prayerfully ask for God’s help in realizing what the Spirit spoke to them out loud.

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.