



# Jesus is the Answer

**LifeGroup Study**

**2024-03-03**

**JESUS IS THE ANSWER**

**Who's Got the Rizz?**

**Leader Notes**

## **OVERVIEW:**

Welcome to our series, Jesus is the Answer. During this four-week series we'll be looking at 4 major themes in 1 Corinthians that Paul addresses and how Jesus provides the new perspective or answer to them. Week 1 is about Divisions in the church. (1 Corinthians 1-4). Church is not a popularity contest where we pick our favourite teacher or ministry. Church is a community of people centered around Jesus. One of the images Paul uses to describe this community is family. Because of the resurrection we are a family, unified around our resurrected Jesus. Through God's power we can have the mind of Christ and promote unity in the church.

## **ICEBREAKER:** Working Towards Unity

Over the years I've had opportunity to work with many teams in the church. Most of the teams I've been part of have been unified in our vision for what we want to accomplish and our individual roles. Some of the teams have struggled with being unified. We've had to work to try and be unified. What about you? Have you been part of a unified team? Have you been part of a team that had to work a little harder to be unified? How did it go? **Share your story with the group.**

## **STUDY:**

WATCH: To begin your LifeGroup study, watch the Bible Project summary of 1 Corinthians.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiHf8klCCc4&t=3s>

1. Being in community can get COMPLEX:

READ: 1 Corinthians 1:2

<sup>2</sup>To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:  
NIV

- Being in community can get complex. That's why it's important to remember who we are. At the beginning of his letter, Paul reminds the Corinthians of who they are in Christ. We have the same identity. We are "called to be his holy people". **In our effort to be the community of Christ, why is it important to remember who we are?**

LEADER NOTE: Being in community is hard. It is complex because we come together as people who are a mixed bag of good intentions and sin. This is why it is important to remember who we are. We are not just broken sinners trying to do the impossible – get along with each other. We are redeemed saints, called to be God's holy people, empowered by his Spirit to live in unity. (also see 1 Peter 2:9)

2. Our goal in community is to be UNITED.

READ: 1 Corinthians 1:10

<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. NIV

- **What does it mean to be "perfectly united in mind and thought"?**

LEADER NOTE: To be "perfectly united in mind and thought" is to be centred on Jesus – to have his mind and to pursue being like him. Philippians 1:1-2 says, "Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by *agreeing wholeheartedly* with each other, loving one another, and working together with *one mind and purpose*." (italics mine) NLT.

- **Where have you seen this kind of unity? Where have you seen the opposite?**

LEADER NOTE: Most of us have likely experienced both unity and disunity in the church. The church is made up of broken people. At times that brokenness will show itself in divisions in the church. Your group members may have experienced division in ways that have left them hurt, burned out or cynical. But, the church is a Spirit-filled body. Through Christ's power, we can move beyond divisions and focus on living as one in Christ. This unity happens as we give up our rights and choose to love each other as Jesus has loved us.

3. God's Spirit (not our smarts) UNITES us.

READ: 1 Corinthians 2:1-4

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup>For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. <sup>4</sup>My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, NIV

- Paul says, "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words ...". But, clearly Paul did use wise and persuasive words in what he wrote. **What point do you think he is trying to make here?**

LEADER NOTE: Paul was not against a well prepared presentation and well-crafted wording, as long as it was a means to an end and not the end goal itself. The gospel, Paul said, comes through the Spirit, not through confidence in human intellect alone. The Corinthians emphasized human wisdom and chose leaders based on their favourite. This was divisive. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, Paul relied only on the power of the Spirit.

4. Being OPEN to the Spirit is key to unity.

- Read back through 1 Corinthians chapter 2. **Where do you see the Spirit mentioned? How does this tie back to our previous series, Open to the Spirit?**

LEADER NOTE: In 1 Corinthians 2:6-15, Paul emphasizes that true wisdom comes from the Spirit. What wisdom does the Spirit give us? He reveals God's truth to us (vs. 10) and shows us God's deep secrets (vs. 10). He even reveals God's thoughts to us (vs. 11) so we can know the wonderful things God has given us (vs. 12). When he taught, Paul used words given by the Spirit (vs. 13) to explain spiritual truths. We can know the LORD's thoughts, Paul says, because God has given us the mind of Christ (vs. 15). In our previous series, "Open to the Spirit", we explored many of these themes. As we are open to God's Spirit, he gives us a new mind and new heart to live for him.

5. QUARRELING leads to disunity.

READ: 1 Corinthians 3:3-9

<sup>3</sup>You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?

<sup>5</sup>What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup>I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building. NIV

- The Corinthians were quarreling over which leader they each followed. This led to disunity. **Why do you think they did this? Why might we do this today?**

LEADER NOTE: The Corinthians quarreled over which leader was best. They did this because they were following the pattern of the world around them. They chose favourites based on their personal preference of who they thought was the best speaker, or smartest, or most likeable, or ... We do this today for the same reasons. We copy the world’s system of choosing favourites. This can lead to disunity in the church.

- Paul shows the Corinthians that rather than choosing favourites, they should remember that each leader has a unique role to play and that God is the one who works through us. **How is this helpful in promoting unity?**

LEADER NOTE: The church is like a field where both planting and watering are necessary. We are like a building where each part unites to make the whole. Each of us is gifted by God and empowered by him to fulfill our unique role. Each part (each person) is equally important and valuable in God’s kingdom. When we have this perspective, we are unified.

6. Don’t DESTROY the church.

READ: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup>Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? <sup>17</sup>If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

- **What does Paul mean – “you yourselves are God’s temple ...”?**

LEADER NOTE: 1 Corinthians 3 is Paul’s warnings to the Corinthians about divisions in the church. Here in vs. 16 he says – “you yourselves are God’s temple” – meaning, “you are the church”.

- In vs. 17, Paul says, “If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person ...” **Have you ever thought about how God feels about those who “destroy” the church through creating division, gossip, lies, etc.?**

LEADER NOTE: Those who tear the church apart by factions and quarrels, Paul says, will be destroyed. “Strong language, indicating that such a foolish labourer is not one of the Lord’s true servants. This is in contrast to the thought of v. 15, where the faulty Christian worker is saved, but his work is destroyed.” NIV study Bible note.

- **How does this serve as a warning for us today?**

LEADER NOTE: As God’s labourers in the church, we should be on the watch for those who would destroy the church. We should be careful not to take part in things that lead to division. Rather, we should be about building up the body of Christ.

7. Live as HUMBLE SERVANTS.

READ: 1 Corinthians 4:1

This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. NIV

- **According to this verse, what is Paul’s solution to the problem of divisions in the church?**

LEADER NOTE: The solution, Paul says, to the problem of divisions in the church, is how we live as members of the body. Rather than competing for recognition or status, we ought to live as humble servants. Rather than viewing what we have built as our own, we should see what we have as a trust, given to us by God to steward faithfully. (also see 1 Cor. 4:2)

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,  
but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”  
Mark 10:45 NIV

READ: 1 Corinthians 4:16

“Therefore I urge you to imitate me.”

Note that Paul tells the Corinthians, “imitate me.”

READ 1 Corinthians 4:8-15

- **How does Paul describe what he and the other apostles were like? How does he contrast their characteristics with the ambitions of the Corinthians?**

LEADER NOTE: In these verses Paul describes himself and the other apostles as humble and weak, dishonoured, hungry and homeless. By contrast, Paul says the ambition of the Corinthians is to live like kings – rich, honoured, strong.

READ: Philippians 2:1-5

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,<sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,<sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: NIV

- **What does it look like to live as humble servants in the church today?**

LEADER NOTE: To live as humble servants in the church today we need to think like Jesus. Paul calls this, having the same “mindset” as Jesus – loving others as he does, being one with our brothers and sisters in Christ, avoiding selfishness and honouring others about ourselves. This is the pathway to true unity in the church. Jesus is our example. God has given us his Spirit to empower us to live like him.

**PRAYER:**

Spend some time thanking God for the example of Jesus, our humble servant-king. Ask God to help you to grow to have the same attitude as Jesus, to live as a humble servant, to promote unity in his church.