



Jesus is the Answer

LifeGroup Study

2024-03-03

JESUS IS THE ANSWER

Who's Got the Rizz?

Participant 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: ! Corinthians 1:2

²To 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?**

2. Our goal in community is to be UNITED.

READ: 1 Corinthians 1:10

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,^[a] 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”?**
- **Where have you seen this kind of unity? Where have you seen the opposite?**

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

READ: ! 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.^[a] ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴My 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?**

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?**

5. QUARRELING leads to disunity.

READ: 1 Corinthians 3:3-9

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

⁵What, 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. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For 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?**
- 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?**

6. Don't DESTROY the church.

READ: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

¹⁶Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ¹⁷If 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 ..."?**
- 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.?**
- **How does this serve as a warning for us today?**

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?**

"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."

In this verse the apostle 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?**

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, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

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

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.