

Spending Time with Jesus in I Corinthians Chapter 1

Don't forget to invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

1st: read I Corinthians all the way through, the whole book, imagining you are Paul saying this to the church in Corinth. To help you remember and ENJOY what you are reading, read out loud for at least 15 minutes each time (longer would be even better.)

2nd: read chapter 1 by itself to remember what it's about

3rd: read chapter 1 again and write down what stands out to you

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through: Answer questions as you go.

I Corinthians 1:1-3

Called means "chosen by God and invited to join Him"

To be an **apostle** means "to be sent by Jesus as His messenger to tell about His resurrection." Apostles saw the risen Jesus, and this gives them authority...and a way of life that is far from easy (see I Cor. 4:9-13.)

God's will is a way of saying "God's desire"

Putting those definitions in verse 1 (with the original words in parenthesis) makes it:

Paul, chosen by God (called) to be a Jesus-sent messenger and eyewitness of his resurrection (an apostle) by God's desire (the will of God,)

You've read this chapter a couple of times already. Why do you think Paul introduces himself this way? After all, he could have started with "Paul, a servant of Jesus".

Sanctified means to be set apart for someone or something. When a man and woman get engaged, you could say that that man is sanctified for his fiancée...and the woman is sanctified to her fiancé. They are set apart for each other only.

Paul is writing to "those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people." What does that mean?

I Corinthians 1:4-9

How would you define God's grace?

In v. 4, how is God's grace given to us? _____

In the first part of v. 5, how did God enrich the Corinthians (and us 😊)? _____

Hmmm...why does Paul repeat this?

In this paragraph, Paul introduces us to why he's writing the letter. He's cramming so much into these words. He knows the Corinthians prize having status, wisdom, eloquence and special abilities above everything else. Paul prizes what God is doing. List what Paul says God is doing:

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- 1) giving them (and us) grace in Christ Jesus
- 2) enriching them (and us) in every way
- 3) confirming Paul's eyewitness testimony about Christ
- 4) keep _____ to the _____ so that you will be _____
on the _____ of _____
- 5) God is _____
- 6) God has _____ us into _____ with _____

I Corinthians 1:10-31

How many times has Paul called Jesus "our Lord Jesus Christ"? _____

Why doesn't he just say "Jesus"? (Hint: what do "Lord" and "Christ" mean?)

If you have a spiral bound portion, look up how many times Paul uses family language in I and II Corinthians. How many do you find of each: (i.e. father)

Family relationship	# of times used
(for example) Father	10

Why does he talk to them as family?

How many times is the cross or Jesus' crucifixion mentioned in chapter 1? _____ For extra bonus points, how many times is it mentioned in I Cor. chapter 2?

Hmmm...why does Paul mention it so often? It was shameful and humiliating...

In verse 18, who does Paul mean when he says “those who are perishing”? (Hint: it’s the opposite of “us who are being saved”)

What is the message of the cross?

Why is the message of the cross foolishness to them?

Verse 21 is a bit of a puzzle. Paul writes this way to get us to slow down and ask for God’s help to think it through. Ready?

For since (this means he’s going to tell us some of God’s reasoning...WHOA!)

in the wisdom of God (God’s perfect eternal plan)

the world through its wisdom (limited knowledge from our little bitty planet)

did not know him

God was pleased to use the foolishness of what was preached to save those
who believe.

Why was the cross a stumbling block to Jews?

How was the cross foolishness?

What is the ultimate example of God using the foolish things, the weak things, the lowly things of the world, the despised things and the things that are not?

How did the cross nullify the things that are?

“It is because of him (God) that you are _____ who has become for us wisdom from God – this is our righteousness, holiness and redemption.”

Hmmm...sound familiar? Let the one who boasts, boast _____