

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 24-30, 2023

“FOOLS FOR CHRIST”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief /recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What's a common habit, behavior or opinion that many people have but you can't relate to?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 1 Corinthians 4:9-13

1. What circumstances in Corinth might have prompted Paul to contrast the apostles' situation with that of the Corinthians? How are the problems in Corinth's old church similar to problems in our churches today?
2. Paul describes the paradox of being both “fools for Christ's sake” and “wise in Christ.” How do you interpret this paradox, and how might it apply to your own Christian journey? Can you share past experiences when you've had to make choices or take actions that seemed foolish to the world but were rooted in your faith?
3. Paul lists a series of hardships in verses 11 and 12. Why do you think Paul and the apostles faced these challenges, and what can we learn from their perseverance? Are there personal challenges or hardships you've experienced where your faith played a role in your perseverance?
4. Paul mentions that “when we are slandered, we answer kindly.” Can you share a time when you chose to respond with kindness in the face of criticism or misunderstanding? Or have you responded the opposite?
5. In a world that often values success in terms of wealth, fame, and power, how should Christians redefine success in the context of ministry and service? Share your thoughts on how success should be measured and what that looks like.

6. Paul mentions being reviled and persecuted. How do you respond to insults or mistreatment, especially when it's related to your faith? Share experiences when you've had to maintain your composure in the face of hostility or opposition.

7. NEXT STEPS

"To be a fool for Christ is the highest honor a man can attain." - Unknown

- ☐ I will count the cost of following Jesus.
- ☐ I will live for Christ and not let the sway of culture influence me.
- ☐ I will respond to unfairness and injustice in Christ's way.

Don't forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray to live a life as a Christ follower who understands the cost, who responds to injustice in a Biblical way and who rises above the tide of the world's culture.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

September 25	1 Corinthians 4:1-8
September 26	1 Corinthians 4:9-13
September 27	1 Peter 4:12-19
September 28	Jeremiah 1:4-9
September 29	Isaiah 49:1-6
September 30	1 Corinthians 12:18-30
October 1	Deuteronomy 5:12-15