

Group Discussion Guide
Sermon: 1 Corinthians 4
Pastor David Uth
The Church United: Week 10

Passage: 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

14 "I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. 15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me. 17 That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. 18 Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. 19 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. 20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. 21 What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?"

Last week Pastor Danny shared from 1 Corinthians 4 on the topic of stewardship—both our influence and our resources. He told us we are not the source of the mysteries of God but we get to deliver the gift of the Gospel to others. Today, Pastor David will finish 1 Corinthians 4 with a look at what it means to be a spiritual father.

Introduction: This discussion guide serves as a conversation starter for your small group. Every week we will feature an icebreaker question in the **Getting Started** section. Your main discussion will be centered around the **Big Idea** section where you will read the key passage and answer suggested questions based on the sermon. Feel free to use some or all of these questions or add your own. Finally, in the **My Life** section we will give you a couple of ways to practically apply what we have learned together and a closing suggested prayer to pray.

Getting Started: Who is your favorite dad from a movie, television, or a book you have read and why?

Big Idea:

Read 1 Corinthians 4:14-15 : How does Paul view the Corinthian church members? What does he want them to consider him? How is a guide different from a father?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:16-17: What does Paul want the Corinthians to do exactly? What do you know about his relationship with Timothy? Why would he be a good example of what Paul is asking them to do? Who has been a spiritual parent to you? How did they challenge and encourage you?

Cross References: 1 Corinthians 1:11, Acts 16:1-5, 1 Timothy 1:2, 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Read 1 Corinthians 4:18-21: What is Paul certain of concerning whether or not he will make it to Corinth again? Why is this statement a good example to the Corinthians?

Cross Reference: James 4:15

In the end, what choice does he give the Corinthians? What do you think Paul would prefer? Can you give an example in your own life when you were able to choose between severe discipline and a counselor who had a heart-to-heart with you?

My Life: Think about where you are in your life. Are you in the position to coach or spiritually parent another believer? Do you need to be more of a learner that has another person coach/parent you?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the example of Paul and Timothy and their relationship as a spiritual parent and a child in the faith. We want to be a church that has both coaches and learners. We don't want to just talk about it, we want to live empowered by Your grace.