

**2/5/23**

**Sermon: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

**Pastor David Uth**

**The Church Divided**

**Week 4**

**Passage:** 1 Cor: 1:18-31 - "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

**20** Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach<sup>[a]</sup> to save those who believe. **22** For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, **23** but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, **24** but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**26** For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards,<sup>[b]</sup> not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. **27** But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; **28** God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, **29** so that no human being<sup>[c]</sup> might boast in the presence of God. **30** And because of him<sup>[d]</sup> you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, **31** so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

### **Instructions:**

This discussion guide serves as a conversation starter for your small group. Every week we will feature an icebreaker question in the **Belong** section as well as give you a recap from the week before. Your main discussion will be centered around the **Believe** 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 **Become** section we will give you a couple of ways to practically apply what we have learned together.

## **Belong:**

**Week 3 Recap:** Last week Pastor David continued our series through the book of 1 Corinthians by talking about Paul's plea for unity in the church at Corinth. He also reminded us of the essentials of the Gospel—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as God's way of salvation for all who believe and trust in him. We should be united around the mission and purpose of sharing and living the Gospel. This week, Pastor David focuses on the last part of chapter 1 and the Wisdom and power of God in the Cross.

**Ice Breaker Question:** What is the best advice you received when you were growing up? Do you give that same advice, or a version of that advice to others now? Why or why not?

**Believe:** Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 - How unbelievers see the cross? Why? What does the cross mean for Christians? Why are these views opposing? What did the cross stand for in ancient Rome? How did the cross change the world? When you personally consider the cross, what feelings come to mind?

What did Christ's opponents demand? Why? What had he done already? (See John 3:2, John 12:9-11) What was Jesus's answer according to Matthew 12:38-42?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. According to this passage, name 3 things the world values. What did God choose in contrast? Why? (Cross Reference Ephesians 2:1-9) - What do we have to boast about?

Look at 1 Cor 1:30 - what did Christ become "to us"? And since we are IN Christ what does that mean for us?

**Become:** Think about one way your behavior has changed because of the Cross of Christ. Complete this sentence, "Before the Cross of Christ I \_\_\_\_\_, now I \_\_\_\_\_." Share this with your group, family, or others this week.

**Prayer:** God thank you for the Cross of Jesus Christ. Please continue to shape me according to your words and your way.