

Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | July 3, 2022

Begin with Scripture, silence, and prayer (5 minutes).

Read Psalm 73 to begin your time together. As we start a new sermon series, we want to orient our hearts and minds to knowing and loving God. Use this Psalm to help you do just that as you get started.

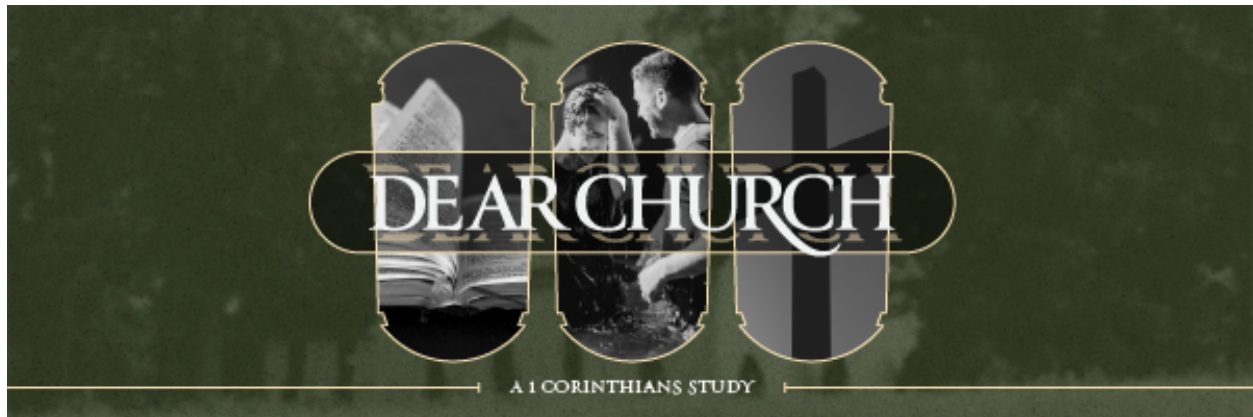
After you have finished reading, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together.

Read the passage with silence and prayer (10 minutes).

This will be a bit of a different opening than past group settings. That's okay. We want to sometimes do things a little different to allow God's Word to impact us in a different way. For this exercise, take some time to study 1 Corinthians together. This shouldn't be done quickly or haphazardly. It should be done slowly. Here are your steps:

- Designate one person in your group to read the passage three times.
- Instruct your group as to what is about to happen. They're listening for any words or phrases that God might want to specifically invite them to take notice of.
- Once everyone is ready, quiet your group and have the designated reader read **1 Corinthians 1:26-31** once. Allow for a brief period of silence for people to reflect.
- After that silence, have the designated reader read the passage again, asking your group to again ponder what words or phrases God might be impressing upon them in the ensuing silence.
- Next, have your designated reader read the passage one last time.
- Once finished, instruct your group to pray to God and share any thoughts, concerns, confessions, etc. that came to mind.

When all these steps are finished, debrief your reading of the passage together.



Debrief (10 minutes).

Ask the following questions to debrief your time in the Scripture together:

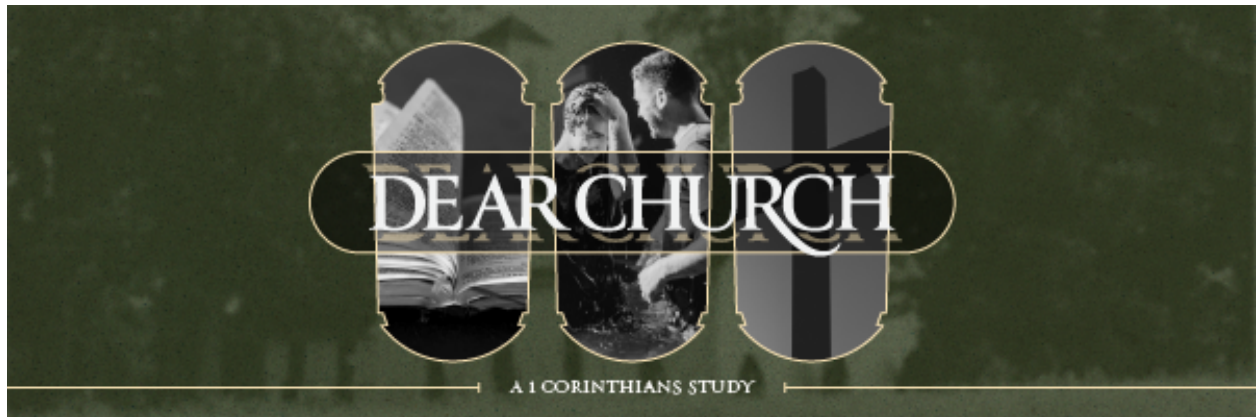
- What words or phrases stood out to you?
- Why do you think God brought those specific verses or words to you?
- If you're willing to share: What sort of prayer did you offer up to God as a result?

Read Scripture and debrief the sermon (30 minutes).

Select a few of the questions below. Consider which questions may be the most fruitful for discussing the reality that God wants us to consider our calling and His choosing of us so that no one may boast in anything but Christ alone.

You may even come up with a few questions that would benefit your specific group discussion.

- How would you describe what the sermon this weekend was about?
- What from this sermon resonated with you? What challenged you?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.** Summarize what Paul is saying to the Corinthians in these verses. What's his point?
- How do these verses relate to what Paul says about unity and division in **verses 10-17**?
- In his sermon, Emerson talked about how Paul was confronting the Corinthians' pride. Why is pride such a detriment to our relationship with God? How has this played itself out in your own life?
- How does Paul address the Corinthians' pride in this passage?
- **Read James 4:6; Psalm 75:4; Jeremiah 9:23-24; 1 John 2:16; 2 Corinthians 10:12; Deuteronomy 8:2-3; Proverbs 18:10-12; Proverbs 15:25-33.** What do these passages indicate to you about pride and God's stance towards it?
- In his sermon, Emerson mentioned how in **1 Corinthians 1:26-31** God calls the Corinthians to deep personal humility and profound confidence in God. Which of those two do you struggle with the most? Humility or confidence in God?
- Emerson also mentioned how Paul calls the Corinthians to consider (1) God's calling; (2) God's choosing; and (3) God's concern. Which of those three points do you think God is wanting you to internalize in a deeper way in this season of your life?
- Knowing all this about pride and humility – how does this message apply to you in each of the following categories: (1) how you love God; (2) how you love people; and (3) how you make disciples?



- What is one main takeaway you have from this message and these passages of Scripture?

Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.