

How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?



Laughs & Lovers
1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5
Danny Hall • April 21, 2013

The cross and the wisdom of men

The cross and the wisdom of God

The cross and the power of God



Laughters & Lovers

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

Message-based Group Lesson

Overview

Having called the Corinthians out of their conflicts to be united around the gospel of the cross, Paul reminds them that God's wisdom, the wisdom of the cross, will be confounding to people rooted in the wisdom of this world. Both Jew and Gentile will find the cross offensive, failing to see how it reveals God's saving power. For the called, the believing, the cross is the place where they find what true life and being fully redeemed are all about. Because of this we, who are called to proclaim the message of the cross, must never let human ingenuity and methods get in the way of the power of the cross.

About this lesson: The study guide for this message is structured to focus more on personal application through the engaging with our lives section.

Engaging with each other

1. Share about a time when you did something that was foolish. Why did it seem like a good idea at the time?

Engaging with the Bible

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5. What makes the cross foolish to some people and powerful to others?
2. In what ways does the cross destroy the wisdom of the wise?
3. What is the core difference in what is valued in the wisdom of this world versus God's wisdom?

4. Read Colossians 4:2-6. Compare and contrast being clever with being clear. What is the tension at work in this?
5. What are some of the ways churches use human ingenuity and methods to communicate God's message? Why do you think this is such a temptation?

Engaging with our lives

1. Read verse 1:26. Describe the kind of person you were when you were called by the Lord. Were you successful and with some notoriety? Or were you unsuccessful and feeling "less than?"
2. How might your life illustrate the principle Paul writes about in 1 Corinthians 1:27?
3. How have you personally struggled with using human ingenuity and methods to share your faith?
4. How does Paul's testimony in this passage encourage you to be more faithful in sharing your faith with others? What is the role of the Holy Spirit? (2:1-5)