



1 Corinthians

EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9



MEMORY VERSE

"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" (1 Corinthians 1:18).



HYMN

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



CATECHISM (FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question: What is the tenth commandment?

Answer: The tenth commandment is "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, not his male servant, not his female servant, not his ox, not his donkey, not anything that is your neighbor's."

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

God sends a letter to the Corinthian believers through Paul.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Two

God gently shows us our sin.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Three

Paul writes about the dangers of sin.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Day Four

Paul's letter is for us.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Day Five

God loves sinners like us.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

DAY ONE

God sends a letter to the Corinthian believers through Paul.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

We are starting a new book of the Bible today. The book is called 1 Corinthians. It is called 1 Corinthians because it was a letter written to the church that was in the city of Corinth. Paul was the human writer of the letter. But the real author of the letter to the Corinthians is God. God is the author of the whole Bible. God gave Paul the words to write in this letter. We do not know how God did this. All we know is that God did it. God can do whatever he wants to do. And everything God does is good. God gave us the Bible so we can know him. He gave us the Bible so we can learn what is right in his sight. And he gave us the Bible to make us ready to do good works, works that he has called us to do. If we want to know God and do his will, we must read the Bible every day. Each day before we read the Bible we should ask God to teach us. Ask him to let you know him better. Ask him to teach you what he loves and what he hates. And ask him to give you the power to know, love, and obey him more and more each day.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

1. Who is the human writer of the letter to the Corinthians? (Paul is the human writer of the letter to the Corinthians.)
2. Who is the real author of the letter to the Corinthians? (God is the real author of the letter to the Corinthians.)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Why did God give us the Bible? (God gave us the Bible so that we can know him. He gave us the Bible so we can learn what is right in his sight. And he gave us the Bible to make us ready to do good works, works that he has called us to do.)
2. Is God always good? (Yes)
3. How can you know God better? (I can know God better by reading the Bible.)

DAY TWO

God gently shows us our sin.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul wrote the letter to the Corinthians because they were sinning. They were not living lives that showed they honored and loved the Lord Jesus. They did not obey God's words. They were not doing what is right in the sight of God. Rather than living like children of light, the people in Corinth were living like their neighbors in darkness. They were copying their bad behavior. Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians who were sinning. Paul told them what they were doing wrong. However, Paul did not yell at the Corinthians. Paul was gentle when he talked to the Corinthians about their sin. Paul knew the Lord was not happy with their sin. Just like Paul was gentle in his words to the Corinthians, so is God when we sin. God is gentle and kind when he shows us our sin. God shows us our sin because he knows we are not happy when we sin. God knows we are happy only when we are obeying him and living like Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. Were the Corinthians obeying God? (No)
2. Who wrote the Corinthians a letter? (Paul wrote the Corinthians a letter)
3. Did Paul yell at the Corinthians? (No)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Was Paul gentle when he talked to the Corinthians? (Yes)
2. Is God gentle when he shows us our sin? (Yes)
3. Are we happy when we sin? (No, sin makes us sad.)

DAY THREE

Paul writes about the dangers of sin.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

The Corinthians went to church, but they were not living like followers of Jesus. They were not kind. They did not serve one another. Instead, they were jealous and selfish. They were fighting with one another. Worst of all, the Corinthians said it was okay to sin. They did not think sin would hurt them. Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians to tell them to be careful! Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that sin is very, very dangerous. Sin makes God angry. Sin makes God seem distant and makes us sad. Paul knew that if his friends the Corinthians did not turn away from their sin, they would be very, very sad. Paul loved his friends the Corinthians and he wrote a letter to tell them to stop sinning and obey God.

QUESTIONS

1. Were the Corinthians living like followers of Jesus? (No)
2. Were the Corinthians serving one another? (No, the Corinthians were acting unkind and selfish.)
3. Did the Corinthians believe sin could hurt them? Were they right? (No, the Corinthians did not believe sin would hurt them. They were wrong! Sin always hurts us.)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. What did Paul write to the Corinthians? (Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians.)
2. Why did Paul write a letter to the Corinthians? (Paul wanted to tell the Corinthians to be careful! Sin is dangerous and if they did not stop, they would be sad.)
3. Why is sin bad? (Sin separates us from God. Sin takes us away from God. When we are away from God, we are in danger and sad.)

DAY FOUR

Paul's letter is for us!

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul wrote a letter to his friends, the Corinthians. He wrote to them because they were not acting like the children of God. They were sinning and acting like the children of Satan. Paul knew his friends would be hurt if they continued to live in such sin. Paul wrote to them to stop sinning and to live in light like Jesus.

However, Paul's words aren't just for the Corinthians. Paul's words are God's words and they are for you and me too. If we are God's children, then we must obey God and run away from sin. Sometimes we don't tell the truth. Sometimes we do not obey our mother. Sometimes we hit our brother or sister. Sometimes we take things without asking. These are all sins. And if we live with sin and say it is "good," God seems distant to us. This makes us sad. So when we sin, we must hate our sin, just like God hates it. We must say we are sorry for our sin. We must ask God to take that sin away and help us to live like Jesus, without sin.

QUESTIONS

1. Who wrote a letter to the Corinthians? (Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians.)
2. Why did Paul write a letter to the Corinthians? (Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians because they were not acting like the children of God.)
3. Were the Corinthians living like children of Satan? (Yes)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Are Paul's words for you and me too? (Yes)
2. Is our sin dangerous? (Yes, sin is always dangerous because it takes us away from God, who keeps us safe.)
3. What should we do when we sin? (We should say we are sorry. We should hate our sin and ask God to forgive us and help us to live like Jesus.)

DAY FIVE

God loves sinners like us.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The church at Corinth had many problems. The Corinthians were fighting among themselves. They were listening to false teachers. They were allowing sin. They were not acting like children of God; they were acting like sinners. But Paul still loved them. And God still loved them. God did not like what they were doing, but he still loved them. God chose the church in Corinth to be his children before the world began. He chose to smile upon them and give them eternal life. God did not choose these people because they were very good. He did not choose them because they pleased him and always obeyed. Before the people of the church in Corinth heard the good news, they were sinners just like everyone else. They lived in the kingdom of sin, Satan, and evil. They were dead to God. They loved evil and hated God. But God is rich in mercy and he is full of grace. God sent Paul to them with the good news about Jesus. God did not have to send Paul with the good news. Sinners do not deserve to hear the good news. But God did

not give the believers in Corinth what they deserved. They deserved to be punished for their sins. They deserved to go to hell forever. But God gave them what they did not deserve. He gave them the gift of eternal life in his Son Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. Did the church at Corinth have many problems? (Yes)
2. Did the church at Corinth allow sin? (Yes)
3. Did God still love the church at Corinth? (Yes)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Did God choose the church at Corinth to be his children because they were very good and obedient? (No, God did not choose them because they were very good people. God chose them even though they were sinners and hated God.)
2. If you obey and are a very good boy or girl, will God love you more? Will he choose you if you do only good things? (No, God does not love us more when we are good. God does not love us more when we obey. God loves us all of the time whether or not we always obey. God loves you even when you hate him. God gave you his Son Jesus who saves you from punishment.)
3. How does this make you feel to know this? (When we know God loves us all of the time, even when we are bad, it makes us feel happy. It makes us want to obey a kind God who never stops loving.)

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1 Corinthians

PRIMARY 1-3 LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9



MEMORY VERSE:

"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" (1 Corinthians 1:18).



HYMN:

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE:

Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



CATECHISM

(FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

Answer: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of His Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

God sends a letter to the Corinthian believers through Paul.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Two

Paul is the one who brought the good news to Corinth.

Scripture: Acts 18:1-18

Day Three

Paul identifies himself as an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Day Four

Paul reminds the Corinthian believers who they are in Christ.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Day Five

Paul gives thanks for the grace that God has given to the Corinthian Christians in their union with Christ Jesus.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

DAY ONE

God sends a letter to the Corinthian believers through Paul.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

We are starting a new book of the Bible today. The book is called 1 Corinthians. It is called 1 Corinthians because it was a letter written to the church that was in the city of Corinth. Paul was the human writer of the letter. But the real author of the letter to the Corinthians is God. God is the author of the whole Bible. The Bible says that "no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). It also says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). There are big words in these Bible verses, are there not? These verses are saying that God gave certain men the words to write down. He gave Paul the words to write. We do not know how God did this. All we know is that God did it. He can do whatever he wants to do. And everything God does is good. God gave us the Bible so that we can know him. He gave us the Bible so we could learn what is right in his sight. And he gave us the Bible to make us ready to do good works; works that he has called us to do. If we want to know God and do his will, we must read the Bible everyday. Each day before we read the Bible we should ask God to teach us. Ask him to let you know him better. Ask him to teach you what he loves and what he hates. And ask him to give you the power to know, love, and obey him more and more each day.

Paul wrote the letter to the Corinthians because they were sinning. They were not living lives that showed they honored and loved the Lord Jesus. They needed to be trained in righteousness. When we live a righteous life we are doing what is right in the sight of God. The Lord Jesus made it possible for us to live lives that are right in the sight of God. He came and died for our sins so we could be rescued from the kingdom of darkness, from the power of sin, death, and Satan. He came to bring us into the kingdom of light and life.

The believers in Corinth had been naughty. They were acting like they were still in the kingdom of darkness. They were still following many of the evil ways of the world. They were doing things that their unbelieving neighbors were doing. Paul wrote this letter to reprove them. That means he was telling them what they were doing wrong in a gentle way. Paul knew the Lord was not happy with the Corinthian believers. They were not living like children of God. They were living like children of the devil. Christians who live like children of the devil make the Lord sad. He is sad because they have forgotten what he did to set them free. He gave his own life to set us free.

God is the Father of all those who have put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. God is a good Father. He loves his children. So when his children are naughty, he disciplines them. He does not do this to hurt his children. He disciplines his children so that they will want to live righteous lives. He disciplines them so they will begin to hate sin and love what is good and true. Our heavenly Father knows that his children are happiest when they do what pleases him. He knows they are happiest when their lives honor and glorify God. God loved the Corinthian Christians so he sent them a letter through Paul. He told them what they were doing wrong. And he told them how to do what was right. God does this for all his children. He has a plan for his children. His plan is for his children to become more and more like Jesus. This is the good work that he is doing in his children. And he has promised that he will complete this good work.

Definitions:

Profitable – producing good or helpful results or effects

Reproof – criticism or blame

Training – the process by which someone is taught the skills that are needed

Correction – the change that makes something or someone right, true, accurate

Competent – having the necessary ability or skills: able to do something well or well enough to meet the standard

Equipped – to prepare someone for a particular activity; to make ready

Naughty – behaving badly: used especially to describe a child who does not behave properly or obey a parent, teacher, etc.

Discipline – punishment for bad behavior

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the human writer of the letter to the Corinthians? (Paul is the human writer of the letter to the Corinthians.) Who is the real author of the letter to the Corinthians? (God is the real author of the letter to the Corinthians.)
2. Why did God give us the Bible? (God gave us the Bible so that we can know him. He gave us the Bible so we could learn what is right in his sight. And he gave us the Bible to make us ready to do good works; works that he has called us to do.)
3. Had the believers in Corinth been naughty children? (Yes)
4. Were the believers in Corinth living as if they were children of God or children of the devil? (They were living like they were children of the devil.)
5. Did God send the believers in Corinth a letter through Paul? (Yes)
6. Did the letter tell them what they were doing wrong? (Yes)

DAY TWO

Paul is the one who brought the good news to Corinth.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 18:1-18

(Read Acts 18:1-18 to the students.) Paul brought the good news to Corinth on his second missionary trip. Paul had preached the good news in Athens. Then the Spirit of God led Paul to the large city of Corinth. Paul had planned to spend a short time in Corinth. But that was not the Lord's plan. Paul spent almost two years in Corinth telling the good news to anyone who would listen. It was in Corinth that Paul met Aquila and his wife Priscilla. They worked with Paul to help many in Corinth know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every Sabbath Paul would go to the synagogue in Corinth. He would show the Jews and God-fearers what the Scriptures said about the Christ. He showed that the Christ had to suffer and be raised from the dead. He told them that Jesus was the promised Savior. But most of the Jews would not believe. They hated Paul. They called him a liar. They said mean things about him. And they said that Jesus was not the Savior. When the Jews would not believe in Jesus, Paul stopped coming to the synagogue. He went to the Gentiles. When Paul left the synagogue he shook out his garments. And he said to the unbelieving Jews, "Your blood be on your own heads!"

I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles" (Acts 18:6). Paul left and went to the house of a God fearing Gentile named Titius Justus. Not all the Jews hated Paul. There were some Jews and God-fearers who believed. Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed that Jesus was the promised Savior. And his whole family also believed. Most of the Jews did not want to hear about Jesus. But the Gentiles did want to hear about Jesus. They were very glad that God was willing to save great sinners like them. They were very glad that Jesus had saved his people from the great anger of God. They were very glad to hear they could be freed from the kingdom of darkness and be brought into God's kingdom of light.

Sometimes Paul must have been discouraged. His own people would not listen to him. Over and over again they tried to stop him from preaching the good news. In every town he visited, the Jews persecuted him and tried to harm Paul. The Lord Jesus loved his faithful servant Paul. He knew Paul was tired, fearful, and discouraged. So one night he appeared to Paul in a vision. He told Paul not to be afraid. He said, "Go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people" (Acts 18:9-10). The Lord had opened the door to heaven for many who lived in Corinth. When Paul preached the good news many believed. Many were rescued from the kingdom of darkness, the kingdom of Satan, sin, and death. Many were brought into the kingdom of light, the kingdom of God, goodness, and life. Paul stayed in Corinth for almost two years. For two years Paul taught the new believers about the Lord. He taught them what the Lord loves and what he hates. He taught how those who live in the kingdom of light should live. After two years it was time for Paul to go. The Holy Spirit was guiding Paul back to Antioch. Paul loved the Corinthian believers. He was sad to go. It would be many years before he would see them again.

QUESTIONS:

1. When Paul arrived in Corinth, where did he go first? (Paul went to the Jewish synagogue.)
2. What happened when Paul told the Jews about Jesus? (Most of the Jews did not want to believe in Jesus.)
3. Who appeared to Paul in a vision? (The Lord Jesus appeared to Paul in a vision.)
4. What did the Lord Jesus say to Paul? (The Lord Jesus told Paul not to be afraid. He said, "Go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people" [Acts 18:9-10].)
5. Did the Lord Jesus keep his promises to Paul? (Yes, the Lord Jesus always keeps his promises.)
6. How long did Paul stay in Corinth? (He stayed almost two years in Corinth.)

DAY THREE

Paul identifies himself as an apostle of Christ Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-3; Acts 9:1-18

(Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 to the students as they follow along in their Bibles.) Word had come to Paul that there were problems in the church at Corinth. They were fighting among themselves. They were listening to false teachers. And they were tolerating sin in the church. When we tolerate something we allow things that are bad to be done. The church was allowing something bad to be done. They were allowing sin! They had forgotten that the Lord had saved them so they could live in a way that pleased God. Sin does not please God. Paul knew the Christians in Corinth were in great danger. They were in danger of being drawn away from their devotion to

the Lord Jesus. Paul was angry when he heard that the church was tolerating sin. So Paul wrote a very long letter to the Corinthian church. He told them what they were doing wrong. And he called them to do what was right in God's sight.

Paul wrote this letter because he loved them. He knew that true joy comes when God's people know, love, and obey the Lord Jesus. He knew true joy comes when God's people glorify God and enjoy him forever. God is not glorified when his people sin. And God's people have no joy when they live sinful lives. Paul was also angry. He was angry as a father is angry when he hears his children have been naughty.

Paul was going to write some hard things to the church. But he loved them. So he began his letter with gentleness. He reminded them who he was. And he reminded them of who they were in Christ. He reminded them of what God had done for them through the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul called himself an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. An apostle is one who is sent. Paul had been sent by the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul had not always loved and obeyed the Lord Jesus. Paul had been an enemy of the Lord Jesus. He had persecuted the church of Christ. He wanted every Jewish believer dead. One day Paul was on his way to the city of Damascus. His plan was to find Jewish Christians and bring them bound to Jerusalem. But the Lord Jesus had different plans for Paul. On the road to Damascus something happened. The thing that happened that day changed Paul forever. Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. And Paul fell on the ground. Then a voice spoke from heaven. The voice said "Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:4). And Saul said, "Who are you Lord?" (Act 9:5). The voice from heaven said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5). The Lord Jesus had called Paul for a special purpose. Paul would no longer be an enemy of Jesus or his church. Paul would now be a builder of Christ's church. The Lord Jesus had chosen Paul to take the good news to the Gentiles, to kings, and to the people of Israel. The Lord Jesus is wonderful. He is all powerful. He can turn his enemies into his faithful children.

Only twelve men were called to be apostles. They were given the special privilege of bringing God's Word to the world. Some went east. Some went west. Some went north and some went south. Wherever the Lord sent them, they told others the good news about Jesus. They told others that Jesus saves his people from the power of sin and death. The twelve apostles were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddaeus, Simon and Paul. Eleven of these men had been Jesus' disciples when he lived on earth. Paul was called by Jesus after he had been crucified, raised, and gone back to heaven. Their true teachings about the Lord Jesus laid the foundation of Christ's church. Those true teachings are found in the New Testament. If we want to know the truth about Jesus we must read the New Testament. When we know what the Bible says about the Lord Jesus, we will not be tricked by false teachers. We will not follow false teachers.

Definitions:

Devotion - a feeling of strong love and loyalty

Tolerate - to allow things that are bad to exist, happen, or to be done

Gentleness - not harsh or stern

QUESTIONS:

1. Were the Christians in Corinth fighting among themselves? Were they listening to false teachers? And were they tolerating sin in the church? (Yes)
2. What did Paul do when he heard the bad news about the Christians in Corinth? (He wrote them a letter.)
3. Who called Paul to be an apostle? (The Lord Jesus called Paul to be an apostle.)
4. What does the word apostle mean? (The word apostle means "a sent one".)
5. What did the Lord Jesus call the apostle Paul to do? (The Lord Jesus called Paul to take the good news to the Gentiles, to kings, and to the people of Israel.)
6. How many apostles did Jesus call? (He called twelve apostles.)
7. Where can we find out the truth about the Lord Jesus? (We find the truth, the whole truth about Jesus in the New Testament.)
8. What can we do so false teachers cannot trick us? (If we read and believe the Bible, false teachers cannot trick us.)

DAY FOUR

Paul reminds the Corinthian believers how God saw them because they were in Christ.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

(Have the students open their Bible to 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 and follow along as you read the for today.) Paul addressed his letter to the church of God that is in Corinth. Paul thought that his letter was only for the Christians at Corinth. But the Lord had different plans. This letter would be read by Christians in every age. It would be part of God's holy Bible. This letter has been read by Christians for 2,000 years. And today in our class we are reading it. The Lord Jesus has sent it to us so we can learn more about him. He has sent it to teach us how he expects his people to live in a sinful world. He sent it to us so that we will not fall into the same sins as the Corinthian church. He does not want us to fight among ourselves. He does not want us to listen to false teachers. And he does not want us to tolerate sin in his church.

Paul addresses his letter to the church of God that is in Corinth. The church of God is made up of those who have put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. God's church is in every country. Wherever there are Christians, God's church is there. When we talk about God's church we can be talking about the place where we gather to worship God each week. Or we can be talking about God's universal church. The universal church is made of every believer who has ever lived. When Paul writes his letter to the church of God in Corinth, he is writing to Christians who gather to worship together in Corinth.

Paul is writing his letter to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus. He is writing to true believers. A true Christian is one who has heard the good news and believed the good news. They believe Jesus is God with us. They believe he was born of a virgin. They believe he is the Son of God. They believe that Jesus came and lived a sinless life. They believe he came to die for the sins of his people. And they believe he was raised from the dead. They believe he now sits at the right hand of God. And they believe Jesus will return and set up his kingdom on earth. True Christians have repented and received Jesus as their Lord and Savior. When we repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are sanctified by the Holy Spirit. We become saints. When we are sanctified, the Holy Spirit sets us aside for a holy purpose. We are no longer of the world. We are no longer in the evil kingdom of the world. Jesus has rescued us from the evil

kingdom. We are now God's holy people. We are now citizens of the kingdom of God. We have a new purpose. Once we lived to glorify ourselves. But now we live to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Paul calls true believers saints. Saints are holy ones. God has chosen and called his people to be saints. He has called them for a holy purpose. They are not chosen because they are extra good. Sometimes we are not very good. Sometimes we do not obey God. Sometimes we act worse than people who do not know and love the Lord. But Paul calls all believers saints. And God sees us as saints. When God looks at us he does not see our sins. He sees the righteousness of the Lord Jesus. When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our old sinful self is put to death. And the Lord Jesus comes to live in us. And we live in him. He lives in us through the Holy Spirit. We are no longer what we were. We are no longer enemies of God. We are no longer rebels against God. The Bible tells us that anyone who is in Jesus is a new creation. The old sinful nature is gone. It is dead. The new righteous nature has come. Even though we do not always act like saints, God sees us as saints. While we live in this body, the Holy Spirit will make us more and more like Jesus everyday. And in the future when Jesus returns we will get new bodies. Those bodies will not be able to sin. We will be like Jesus and then we will always act like saints.

QUESTIONS:

1. To whom did Paul write? (He wrote to the church at Corinth.)
2. Are saints perfect people or are they people who have received Jesus as Lord and Savior? (They are people who have received Jesus as Lord and Savior.)
3. When God looks at Christians, does he see their sins or does he see Jesus' righteousness? (God sees Jesus' righteousness when he looks at Christians.)
4. Who makes us more and more like Jesus, our pastors or the Holy Spirit? (The Holy Spirit makes us more and more like Jesus.)

DAY FIVE

Paul gives thanks for the grace that God has given to the Corinthian Christians in their union with Christ Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

(Read 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 to the students.) The church at Corinth had many problems. They were fighting among themselves. They were listening to false teachers. They were allowing things that were bad to be done. They were allowing sin! They were not acting like saints. They were acting like sinners. But Paul still loved them. And God still loved them. God did not like what they were doing but he still loved them. He had chosen them to be his children before the world began. He had chosen to smile upon them and give them eternal life. God did not choose them because they were extra good. He did not choose them because they pleased him in everything they did. Before they heard the good news, they were sinners just like everyone else. They lived in the kingdom of sin, Satan, and evil. They were dead to God. They loved evil and hated God. But God is rich in mercy and he is full of grace. He sent Paul to them with the good news about Jesus. God did not have to send Paul with the good news. Sinners do not deserve to hear the good news. But God did not give the believers in Corinth what they deserved. They deserved to be punished for their sins. They deserved to go to hell forever. But God gave them what they did not deserve. He gave them the gift of eternal life in his Son Jesus.

Paul thanked God for saving the Christians in Corinth. He thanked God for bringing them out of

darkness into his marvelous light. Paul was grateful for the gift of eternal life that God had given to the Corinthian believers. This gift of eternal life was given when they received Jesus as Lord and Savior. It was given when Jesus came to live in them. Jesus is the life. Wherever Jesus is there is life. When Jesus comes to live in repentant sinners, sinners have life. They have Jesus' life. When Jesus came to live in believers, he gave other gifts. First, he gave the gift of the Holy Spirit. And then the Holy Spirit gave gifts. He gave the Corinthian believers gifts of speech and knowledge. They were to use these gifts to glorify God and bring others to know, love, and obey the Lord Jesus.

But they were not using the gifts God had given them to glorify the Lord. They were not sharing their gifts. They were using them to glorify themselves. They were not being faithful to the Lord. But the Lord was faithful to them. And the Lord is faithful to us. He had begun his good work in the Corinthian believers. And he has begun a good work in our lives. He still has a lot of work to do in our lives but he will not desert us. He who began a good work in our lives will complete it. That good work will be completed when the Lord Jesus comes again. On that day we will stand before the Lord Jesus guiltless. We will be without guilt because God, our Father, has declared that no legal charge can be brought against us. Jesus has taken our punishment at the cross. He died in our place so no legal charge could be brought against us. We deserved death and hell. We are guilty. But our beloved Savior took the punishment for our guilt so we could go free.

Definitions:

Guilt - responsibility for a crime or for doing something bad or wrong

Guiltless - without guilt

QUESTIONS:

1. Did God still love the Corinthian believers when they sinned? (Yes)
2. Did God save the Corinthian believers because they were good? (No, they were not good. None of us are good.)
3. Did he save them because he had decided to love them before the world began? (Yes)
4. When the Corinthian believers were unfaithful to Jesus, did Jesus stay faithful to them? (Yes)
5. If we belong to Jesus, will he stay faithful to us also? (Yes)
6. God has given his children many good gifts. Should we use those gifts to glorify ourselves or to glorify God? (We should use our gifts to glorify God.)
7. Do you think it would be a good idea to thank Jesus everyday for dying for our sins? (Yes)

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1 Corinthians

PRIMARY 4-6 LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9



MEMORY VERSE

"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" (1 Corinthians 1:18).



HYMN

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



CATECHISM (FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

Answer: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of His Spirit in them that by faith receive them.



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

The city and church of Corinth

Scripture: Acts 18:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2

Day Two

The gospel took root in Corinth.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Day Three

The basic outline of 1 Corinthians

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Four

The church of Corinth is deeply troubled.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Five

The church of Corinth is a work of God.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

SUGGESTED OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1. How is our hymn for the week, "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," fitting for this lesson? (This hymn is fitting for this lesson on the introduction to the letter to the troubled church in Corinth. Although the church had many serious problems, it was still God's church, built on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ. Verse 1 reminds us that the members of this church were "chosen of the Lord and precious" and that in Christ they are one with all other believers. Verse 2 reminds us that this struggling group is identified as *"the church of God [the Father], sanctified in Christ Jesus [the Son], and called to be saints [by the work of the Holy Spirit]"* [1 Corinthians 1:2]. Verse 3 reminds us of the work of God that Paul promised would sustain these believers to the end. It is not the work of believers, but the sure foundation of Jesus Christ that is the cornerstone of the church—even a very troubled church.)

DAY ONE

The city and church of Corinth

SCRIPTURE

Acts 18:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2

During his second missionary journey Paul went to the city of Corinth and with the help of a Jewish couple named Aquila and Priscilla, supported himself as they did as a tentmaker and preached in the local synagogue. When opposition came from the synagogue, Paul moved on to preach and teach in a house next door. Paul stayed in Corinth for eighteen months and a strong church was established in that city made up of believing Jews and Gentiles. Paul wrote a letter back to the established church in Corinth from Ephesus during his third missionary journey.

Paul wrote the letter to the church in Rome at about the same time he wrote to the Corinthians. The basic beliefs of Christianity are clearly laid out in Romans, while the letter to the Corinthians seems to deal with a number of problems in Corinth that could have little importance to the church today.

Although the letter to the Corinthian church addresses problems faced by that particular church, the godly advice given by Paul is something the church in our day needs to hear as well.

Christians need to pay attention to the way they live as well as what they believe.

The city of Corinth was located on a narrow strip of land that joins the mainland of Greece with the southern islands. Corinth was an important city that connected the intellectual center of Athens and the military center of Sparta. All movement from Athens to Sparta had to pass through Corinth. Also, ships moving their trade up the western coast of Greece from the Mediterranean had to unload their cargo and carry it across the four-mile strip of land (called an isthmus) to the sea on the other side. In the first century, Nero, who was emperor of Rome, wanted to build a channel across that small strip of land, but it was not completed until many centuries later in 1893. The population of Corinth became quite wealthy from the amount of trade done there. Its location made Corinth a primary point for the transport of goods between Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Like other port cities, Corinth was universally known as a pleasure-loving, self-indulgent, corrupt community. Even the name "Corinthian" became known as a title of immorality.

Another matter of significance for Corinth was its role as sponsor of the Isthmian Games, similar to the Olympic Games. All the glamour associated with the trained athlete and the muscular body also became a matter of great significance to the Corinthian.

It is not difficult to see why the Christian gospel faced serious challenges as it sought to transform this corrupt community.

QUESTIONS

1. When did Paul write this letter to the church at Corinth? (Paul wrote this letter back to the established church in Corinth from Ephesus during his third missionary journey.)
2. Thinking that Paul's letters to the Romans and to the Corinthians were written at about the same time, how do you see their differing significance in the life of the church as it was just being formed? (Christians need to pay attention to the way they live as well as what they believe.)
3. What cities of the world today might you compare with Corinth, both in its wealth and its corruption? In what way do you see them also needing a word from God with very practical implications? (Answers will vary.)
4. How would you compare people's interest in various sports activities today such as soccer's World Cup, baseball's World Series, and (American) football's Super Bowl to the Isthmian Games of Corinth? (Answers will vary but might include that like the Corinthians, we are very interested in the glamour of athletes.)

DAY TWO

The gospel took root in Corinth.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

During his missionary journeys, Paul stopped in Athens, the most intellectual city of his day. He preached to the leading philosophers on Mars Hill. Then he moved across the narrow four-mile-wide isthmus to Corinth (Acts 18:1). He exchanged an atmosphere known for thinking with an atmosphere known for self-indulgence.

Yet the gospel found an early success in Corinth that was not clear in Athens. As a consequence of an encouraging vision, Paul remained in Corinth a year and a half teaching the Word of God (Acts 18:11). Although Paul wrote several letters back to the established church in Corinth, no evidence exists of any further contact with Athens.

QUESTIONS

1. Review Acts 17 and 18 that record the response to the Christian message in Athens and Corinth. How would you compare these two cities in terms of their cultural focus and their response to the gospel? (Athens was focused on thinking, Corinth was focused on indulgence. Yet it was in Corinth that the gospel took root.)
2. Compare your own village, town, or city to these two ancient cities in terms of cultural focus and response to the gospel. (Answers will vary.)
3. How long did Paul remain in Corinth? (Paul remained in Corinth a year and a half teaching the Word of God.)
4. How did God encourage Paul to keep teaching and preaching in Corinth? (*“And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people’”*[Acts 18:9-10].)
5. How does the Lord’s encouragement to Paul help you? (Answers will vary but might include that the Lord has his people in many places and our words can be used to help also.)

DAY THREE

The basic outline of 1 Corinthians

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Book of 1 Corinthians can be divided into two main sections. In the first division (chapters 1-6), Paul responds to the news he has heard from Corinth. He has heard about divisions in the church so he addresses the pride that caused the divisions in the first place and the solution. He has heard about lawsuits within the church and addresses both proper and improper use of the law in such cases. He has heard about a terrible case of sexual immorality that has been allowed to go unchecked and he tells the leaders how to bring repentance and restoration. He speaks to those in the church who have been offended and to those who have offended others.

In the second division (chapters 7-16), Paul answers questions the church raised in a letter they wrote to him. The church had questions about marriage, about Christian liberty, about order in worship services, about the resurrection of the body and about collections for fellow believers in Jerusalem.

QUESTIONS

1. Review the basic outline of 1 Corinthians. What are the two main divisions of the book? (In the first division, Paul responds to the news he has heard from Corinth. In the second division, Paul answers questions the church raised in a letter they wrote to him.)
2. Considering the five different questions raised by the Corinthians in chapters 7 – 16, which would you consider most pressing in your church today? Why? (Answers will vary.)
3. What other issues not mentioned in 1 Corinthians can you identify as creating serious problems in your church? (Answers will vary.)

DAY FOUR

The church of Corinth is deeply troubled.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Corinthian church was a church with lots of problems—big problems. The problems were not just minor distractions of an otherwise healthy church. The church is the body and bride of Christ, and the problems in this body struck at the root of Christian practice and belief.

Deep divisions disrupted their unity. A kind of immorality existed among them that would not even be mentioned among heathen peoples. They were confused about the proper understanding of marriage from God's perspective. They had abused their Christian liberties and treated the Lord's Supper with such irreverence that some of their members had been struck dead by the hand of an offended God. Pride over gifts graciously given by the Holy Spirit created confusion and disorder in the sacred hour of worshipful assembly. Some among them openly denied the basic doctrine of the resurrection of the body. This was, indeed, a deeply troubled church!

QUESTIONS

1. What were some of the troubles in the Corinthian church? (Deep divisions disrupted their unity. A kind of immorality existed among them that would not even be mentioned among heathen peoples. The church had questions about marriage, about Christian liberty, about order in worship services, about the resurrection of the body.)
2. Were these questions just minor distractions? (No, the problems in this body struck at the root of Christian practice and belief.)
3. How does it help you to know that Paul addressed these major problems in the church in Corinth? (Answers will vary but might include that even though the church in Corinth had major problems, God was still working to sanctify them. God will still work with his sinful, but sanctified people today.)

DAY FIVE

The church of Corinth is a work of God.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

This struggling group is identified as *“the church of God [the Father], sanctified in Christ Jesus [the Son], and called to be saints [by the work of the Holy Spirit]”* (1 Corinthians 1:2).

Yes, the church in Corinth had major problems, but it was still the church, the body of Christ. God had already begun a work of change in the hearts of these saints, these people beloved by God and set apart to be holy, but that work was not yet finished. In this world there will never be a church free from every wrinkle and stain of sin.

Paul goes on to say that this church is united *“with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus”* (1 Corinthians 1:2). Without doubt they are a part of the universal body of Christ. He also notices the positive aspect of this community of Christians. They are *“not lacking in any gift”* (1 Corinthians 1:7). They must be recognized as having an abundance—even an overabundance—of the Spirit’s gifts. In addition, he is confident of their ultimate destiny, for they are *“waiting expectantly”* for the complete revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:7). The possession of God’s Holy Spirit serves as the guarantee of their eternal inheritance, for God is faithful, who will carry on his work of salvation to the end (1 Corinthians 1:8). Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In opening his remarks with these encouragements, Paul prepares the Corinthian church for the corrections he will immediately introduce, for he does not wish them to despair after he has rebuked them over so many matters.

The apostle refers to Jesus Christ no less than nine times in these opening nine verses. As in all of Paul’s thinking, Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone is the only answer to all the problems of God’s people.

QUESTIONS

1. List as many encouraging things about the church in Corinth as you can find in chapter 1, verses 4-9. (The members of this church belonged to God the Father, they were sanctified by Jesus Christ, and called to be saints. They were part of the church universal. They were given many spiritual gifts. They would be kept until the end in the faithful hand of God.)
2. Discuss Paul’s wisdom in beginning on this positive note. (Answers will vary.)
3. How would you explain how opposite the introductory remarks of Paul are compared with the body of his letter? (Paul prepares the Corinthian church for the corrections he will immediately introduce, for he does not wish them to despair after he has rebuked them over so many matters.)
4. What very important lesson can we learn from Paul’s identity of the Corinthian church by their relation to each of the three persons of the Trinity? (It is the work of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to call, to redeem, and to keep believers until the coming of Jesus Christ in glory.)
5. How should this perspective affect your attitude toward other Christian denominations? (Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.)
6. What realities does Paul point to as a firm foundation for a positive perspective on the Corinthian church despite all its problems? (Believers are called by the will of God, sanctified in Christ Jesus, part of the family of believers of all times and all places.)
7. How can these same realities serve as an encouragement to the individual Christian, including yourself? (Answers will vary.)

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1 Corinthians

JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9



MEMORY VERSE

"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" (1 Corinthians 1:18).



HYMN

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," *Rafiki Hymnal*.



DOCTRINE

Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



CATECHISM

(FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

Answer: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of His Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

The letters to Corinth speak to problems that the church faces in every generation.

Scripture: Acts 18:1-18.

Day Two

The Christian gospel faces serious challenges as it seeks to transform the corrupt city of Corinth.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9.

Day Three

The Corinthians respond to Paul's preaching of the gospel.

Scripture: Acts 17:16-18:17.

Day Four

Paul's responds to news from Corinth and answers questions asked by the Corinthians.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1-16.

Day Five

Paul greets the Corinthians and give thanks for the Spirit's work in their lives.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

DAY ONE

The letters to Corinth speak to problems the church faces in every generation.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 18:1-18.

In Acts 18:1-18, Luke gives some important information about the founding of the church in Corinth. During Paul's second missionary journey he arrived in Corinth after his visit to Athens. His time in that great city had impressed on him the foolishness of worldly wisdom. Remember that in Athens Paul spoke not only in the synagogue, but also in the marketplace. Paul spoke with anyone who happened to be out in the public areas of the market. He had discussions with Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. He spoke on Mars Hill to all the men of Athens. These conversations must have been fresh in Paul's mind as he arrived in Corinth.

In comparison to the gospel of Christ worldly wisdom was foolishness. Paul was convinced of this and was determined to preach the simple message of the cross in Corinth. He stayed and worked with Aquila and Priscilla, an influential Christian couple, and preached in the synagogue each Sabbath. Eventually the Jews so opposed Paul that he began to focus his ministry on the Gentiles. The Christian congregation in Corinth flourished dramatically. It grew vigorously and prospered. Paul stayed in Corinth more than eighteen months. He expected that the Corinthian Christians would continue to grow spiritually.

But instead of maturing, the Corinthian church had developed some serious problems. The Corinthian letters deal with these specific troubles. You may think that these peculiar problems have little significance for the church today. But these are recurring problems that the church faces in different forms in every generation. Paul is concerned about these believers and directly writes about their ungodly lives. He is concerned about the way these Corinthian Christians were living as well as what they believed. There is much here in 1 Corinthians for us to learn today. As Paul deals with these problems, he teaches about God's sovereignty, the nature of the church, holiness, and the bodily resurrection.

In introducing this study of 1 Corinthians, four subjects of discussion will be considered:

1. The city of Corinth
2. The gospel in Corinth
3. A basic outline of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians
4. Paul's introductory remarks

QUESTIONS

1. Why was Paul determined to preach the simple message of the cross in Corinth? (Paul had experienced in Athens the emptiness of worldly wisdom. He knew that only the gospel of Christ brings light and life.)
2. Is it helpful for us today to learn about the problems in the early church in Corinth? Why or why not? (The problems in Corinth are the same as problems in the church today. We can learn from the teaching Paul gives as he speaks to these problems. The truth in the Scriptures applies to us today as well as to those Christians living in the past. How we live and what we believe are both important in the Christian life.)

DAY TWO

The Christian gospel faces serious challenges as it seeks to transform the corrupt city of Corinth.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9.

The ancient city of Corinth was strategically located on the isthmus (the narrow strip of land) that joins mainland Greece with the southwestern part of Greece known as the Peloponnesus. Corinth was the connection with the intellectual center of Athens and the militant center of Sparta. All movement going west from Athens or other parts of the Grecian peninsula had to pass through Corinth. Ships moving their trade up the western coast of Greece from the Mediterranean had to unload their cargo and carry it across the isthmus to the sea on the other side. The population of the city became quite wealthy because of its abundant commerce. Because Corinth was a main point for the transport of goods between Asia, Africa, and Europe, it has been called the chief city of Greece. It was a grand city in authority, wealth, magnificence, literature, the arts, and luxury.

Corinth was known everywhere as a pleasure-loving, decadent community. To say one was a "Corinthian" was the same as saying "one who practices fornication." It has been said that there were more than a thousand prostitutes connected with the temple of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, in old Corinth.

Corinth was also known as sponsor of the Isthmian Games, similar to the Olympic games. All the glamour that went along with the trained athlete and the muscular body became a matter of great significance to the Corinthian.

It is not hard to see the serious challenges faced by preachers of the Christian gospel in this corrupt community. Would change in the hearts of the pleasure-loving, decadent Corinthians be possible?

QUESTIONS

1. What cities in your own country or in the world today might you compare with Corinth, both in its wealth and its decadence? In what way do you see them also needing a word from God? (Answers will vary.)
2. Can you think of any religious practices today that join supposed devotion to doing what's right with sexual immorality? How would you compare people's interest in various sports activities today such as soccer's World Cup and (American) football's Super Bowl to the Isthmian Games of Corinth? (Answers will vary.)

DAY THREE

The Corinthians respond to Paul's preaching of the gospel.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:16-18:17.

After his stay in Athens and his memorable sermon on Mars Hill (Acts 17:16-34), Paul traveled to Corinth (Acts 18:1). Paul left the intellectual atmosphere of Athens and entered the sensuous atmosphere of Corinth. In Athens Paul reasoned with educated men, the intelligentsia. But in Corinth men had nothing to do with sound thought or judgment and gave in to whatever pleased their senses. Yet in Corinth many believed the gospel and were baptized. This was not true in Athens. In a vision the Lord encouraged Paul and said, "Do not be afraid, but go on

speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people (Acts 18:9,10).” God knows the hearts of men and knew that many in Corinth had believed the gospel. The Lord blessed the Corinthians with an abundance of the Spirit's gifts as they waited for Christ's return. Paul remained in Corinth a year and a half teaching the Word of God (Acts 18:11). Although Paul later wrote several letters to Corinth, no evidence exists that Paul had any further contact with Athens. God's grace in Christ Jesus was poured out in Corinth. Many hearts in that grand, corrupt city were transformed. God is faithful.

QUESTIONS

1. Compare the response to the Christian message in Athens and Corinth. Why do you think the response to the gospel was different in these cities that were not far from each other? (Answers will vary. The response in Corinth was greater than in Athens. In Corinth many believed and were baptized. In Athens some men joined Paul and believed. Some may answer that God was pleased to pour out the Holy Spirit in abundance in Corinth. We cannot explain it, but trust that God delighted to open Corinthian hearts to the gospel for his glorious purposes. Perhaps the intellectuals in Athens trusted in their own reasoning powers and felt they had no need for God. They thought they were wise enough and did not need God's wisdom.)
2. Compare your own village, town or city to Athens and Corinth in terms of culture and response to the gospel. (Answers will vary.)

DAY FOUR

Paul's responds to news from Corinth and answers questions asked by the Corinthians.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1-16.

A Basic Outline of 1 Corinthians

Introduction (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)

- A. Response to News from Corinth (1:10 – 6:20)
 1. About Divisive Pride over Persons and its Solution (1:10 – 4:21)
 2. About Lawsuits Proper and Improper (5:1 – 6:20)
 - a. A specific case of sexual immorality (5:1-13)
 - b. Lawsuits between believers (6:1-20)
 - (1) A word to the offended (6:1-7)
 - (2) A word to the offenders (6:8-20)
- B. Questions Raised in Their Letter to the Apostle (7:1 – 16:4)
 1. About Marriage (7:1-40)
 2. About Christian Liberty (8:1 – 11:1)
 3. About Order in Worship (11:2 -14:40)
 4. About the Resurrection of the Body (15:1-58)
 5. About Collections (16:1-4)
 6. Conclusion (16:5-24)

QUESTIONS

1. Review the basic outline of 1 Corinthians. What are the two main divisions of the book? (The first division is 1 Corinthians 1:10-6:20, Paul's response to reports he had heard from Corinth. The second division is 1 Corinthians 7:1-16:4, Paul's answers to questions that the Corinthian believers had asked in a letter to Paul.)
2. In the basic outline, look at the five different topics the Corinthians asked Paul about in chapters 7 – 16. As you think about these topics, which would you consider most pressing in your church today? Why? (Answers will vary.)
3. As you look at the basic outline, which topic or topics interest you the most? Why? (Answers will vary.)

DAY FIVE

Paul greets the Corinthians and give thanks for the Spirit's work in their lives.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9.

Problems, problems, problems! The Corinthian church might deserve to be thought of as a church with problems. These problems were not minor. These were extremely serious problems that hit hard at the root of Christian practice and belief. Deep divisions marred the unity of believers. A kind of immorality existed among them that would not even be mentioned among heathen peoples. Confusion clouded a proper understanding of God's ordinance of marriage. Abuse of Christian liberty and the Lord's Supper had become so blatant that some of their members had been struck dead by God. Pride over gifts graciously given by the Holy Spirit created chaos in worship. Some among them openly denied the chief doctrine of the resurrection of the body. This was, indeed, a deeply troubled church!

Yet in a great paradox, this struggling group is identified as "the church of God [the Father], sanctified in Christ Jesus [the Son], and called to be saints [by the work of the Holy Spirit]" (1 Corinthians 1:2).

Paul affirms the union of this church "with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:2). Without doubt they are a part of the universal body of Christ. He also notices the positive aspect of this community of Christians. They are "not lacking in any gift" (1 Corinthians 1:7). They must be recognized as having an abundance—even an overabundance—of the Spirit's gifts. Paul is confident of their ultimate destiny, for they are "waiting expectantly" for the final revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:7). The possession of God's Holy Spirit serves as the guarantee of their eternal inheritance, for God is faithful, and will carry on his work of salvation to the end (1 Corinthians 1:8).

In opening his remarks with these encouragements, Paul prepares the Corinthian church for the corrections he will immediately introduce. He does not wish them to despair after he has warned them about so many matters.

The apostle refers to Jesus Christ no less than nine times in these opening nine verses. As in all of Paul's thinking, Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone is the only answer to all the problems of God's people.

QUESTIONS

1. What true things does Paul point out to give us a positive perspective on the Corinthian church despite all its problems? How can these same true things serve as an encouragement to individual Christians, including you? (Paul points out that without a doubt the Corinthian church is part of the universal body of Christ. The Corinthian believers have a abundance of the Spirit's gifts and God will be faithful to keep them until Christ comes again. Even though churches and individuals have problems and sin, God is faithful and will work out his salvation in us and keep us to the end.)
2. Take a few moments to review the problems of the Corinthian church, and ask how these problems may or may not be present in your church or school. (Answers will vary.)
3. Take some time to look at the points of encouragement mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:1-9. How could you use one or more of these to encourage those who are facing problems in your church or school? (Answers will vary.)

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1 Corinthians

SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 1:1-9



MEMORY VERSE

"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" (1 Corinthians 1:18).



HYMN

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," *Rafiki Hymnal*



DOCTRINE

Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



CATECHISM

(FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

Answer: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of His Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

Introduction to Corinthians – The city of Corinth

Scripture: Acts 18:1-18

Day Two

The Gospel in Corinth

Scripture: Acts 17:16-34; 18:1-4, 9-11

Day Three

A basic outline of 1 Corinthians

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Four

Problems in the Corinthian church

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Five

Paul's introductory remarks to the Corinthian church

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

DAY ONE

Introduction to Corinthians – The city of Corinth

SCRIPTURE

Acts 18:1-18

Generally, Paul's letters to the Corinthians are not regarded as having the same significance as his letter to the Romans. The basic beliefs of Christianity are clearly laid out in Paul's letter to the Romans, while the Corinthian correspondence gives the appearance of dealing with a number of peculiar problems in this early church that have little significance for the church of today.

Yet the letters to Corinth address perennial problems that the church faces in differing forms in every generation, for Christianity addresses the way its adherents are to live as well as what they are to believe.

In introducing this study, four matters will be considered:

1. The city of Corinth
2. The gospel in Corinth
3. A basic outline of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians
4. Paul's introductory remarks

The City of Corinth

The city of Corinth was strategically located on the western end of the isthmus (the narrow strip of land) that joins the mainland of Greece with its southwestern extremity known as the Peloponnesus. Corinth provided the essential connection with the intellectual center of Athens and the militant center of Sparta. All movement going west from Athens or other parts of the Grecian peninsula had to pass through Corinth. In addition, ships moving their trade up the western coast of Greece from the Mediterranean had to unload their cargo and carry it across the four-mile strip of land to the sea on the other side. In the first century, Nero who was emperor of Rome, sought to construct a channel across the isthmus, but it was not completed until many centuries later in 1893. The population of the city became quite wealthy due to its abundant commerce. Its locale made Corinth a primary point for the transport of goods between Asia, Africa, and Europe. As a consequence, it has been called the chief city of Greece, not only in authority but in wealth, magnificence, literature, the arts, and luxury.

Corinth was universally known as a pleasure-loving, decadent community. The designation "Corinthian" was equivalent to "one who practices fornication." In classical Greek, "to act the Corinthian" meant "to practice fornication."

According to one commentator, there were more than a thousand prostitutes connected with the temple of Aphrodite [the Greek goddess of love] in old Corinth. It is not difficult to see why the Christian gospel faced serious challenges as it sought to transform this corrupt community.

Another matter of significance for Corinth was its role as sponsor of the Isthmian Games, similar to the Olympic Games. All the glamour associated with the trained athlete and the muscular body also became a matter of great significance to the Corinthian.

QUESTIONS:

1. Assuming that Paul's letters to the Romans and to the Corinthians were written at about the same time, how do you see their differing significance in the life of the church as it was just being formed? (Answers may vary.)
2. Discuss with the class what cities of the world today might you compare with Corinth, both in its wealth and its decadence. In what way do you see them also needing a word from God

with very practical implications? (Answers may vary.)

- Can you think of any religious practices today that join supposed piety with sexual immorality? How would you compare people's interest in various sports activities today such as soccer's World Cup, baseball's World Series, and (American) football's Super Bowl, or the Olympic Games to the Isthmian Games of Corinth? (Answers may vary.)

DAY TWO

The Gospel in Corinth

SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:16-34; 18:1-4, 9-11

The Gospel in Corinth

After his stay in Athens and his memorable sermon on Mars Hill among the intelligentsia of the Greeks (Acts 17:16-34), Paul proceeded across the narrow four-mile-wide isthmus to Corinth. It was at this time that Aquila and Priscilla met Paul and began to work with him (Acts 18:1-4). As has been noted, "To leave Athens for Corinth was to exchange an intellectual for a sensuous atmosphere." Yet the gospel found an initial success in Corinth that was not evident in Athens. It would seem that Paul's experience in Athens had made him more determined than ever to preach the simple message of the cross, however offensive it might appear to some. He stated as much when he said: *"And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God"* (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

Paul preached in the synagogue until Jewish opposition forced him to move into the home of Titius Justus next door to the synagogue, and to focus his ministry the on Gentiles. As a consequence of an encouraging vision, in which the Lord spoke to Paul saying: *"Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you for I have many in this city who are my people."* (Acts 18:9-11). Paul remained in Corinth a year and a half teaching the Word of God. The Christian congregation in Corinth, composed of both Jews and Gentiles, initially flourished dramatically. Although Paul subsequently wrote several letters to Corinth, no evidence exists of any further contact with Athens.

QUESTIONS:

- Review the narratives of Acts 17 and 18 that record the response to the Christian message in Athens and Corinth. How would you compare these two cities in terms of their cultural focus and their response to the gospel? (Answers may vary.)
- Compare your own village, town, or city to these two ancient locales in terms of cultural focus and response to the gospel. (Answers will vary.)
- In what ways did the Lord encourage Paul in his ministry in Corinth? Has the Lord encouraged you as you have sought to give out the gospel? If so, how? (Answers will vary.)

DAY THREE

A basic outline of 1 Corinthians

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A Basic Outline of 1 Corinthians

Introduction (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)

- A. Response to News from Corinth (1:10 – 6:20)
 - 1. About Divisive Pride over Persons and its Solution (1:10 – 4:21)
 - 2. About Lawsuits Proper and Improper (5:1 – 6:20)
 - a. A specific case of sexual immorality (5:1-13)
 - b. Lawsuits between believers (6:1-20)
 - (1) A word to the offended (6:1-7)
 - (2) A word to the offenders (6:8-20)
- B. Questions Raised in Their Letter to the Apostle (7:1 – 16:4)
 - 1. About Marriage (7:1-40)
 - 2. About Christian Liberty (8:1 – 11:1)
 - 3. About Order in Worship (11:2 -14:40)
 - 4. About the Resurrection of the Body (15:1-58)
 - 5. About Collections (16:1-4)
 - 6. Conclusion (16:5-24)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Review the basic outline of 1 Corinthians. What are the two main divisions of the book? (Paul's response to the news from Corinth regarding 1. pride and lawsuits between believers, and 2. the questions raised regarding marriage, Christian liberty, the order in worship, the resurrection of the body and collections.)
- 2. Why do you think it was important for Paul to address these issues so directly? (Answers may vary.)
- 3. Considering the five different questions raised by the Corinthians in chapters 7 – 16 as noted in the basic outline, which would you consider most pressing in your church today? Why? (Answers may vary.)

DAY FOUR

Problems in the Corinthian church

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Corinthian church might justly be characterized as a church with problems, problems, problems. These problems were not minor distractions of an otherwise healthy manifestation of Christ's body and bride. Instead, they struck at the root of Christian practice and belief. Deep divisions marred their unity. A kind of immorality existed among them that would not even be mentioned among heathen peoples. Confusion clouded a proper understanding of God's ordinance of marriage. Abuse of Christian liberty and the Lord's Supper had become so blatant that some of their members had been struck dead by the hand of an offended God. Pride over gifts graciously given by the Holy Spirit created chaos in the sacred hour of worshipful assembly. Some among them openly denied the cardinal doctrine of the resurrection of the body. This was, indeed, a deeply troubled church!

Yet in a great paradox, this struggling group is identified as *"the church of God [the Father], sanctified in Christ Jesus [the Son], and called to be saints [by the work of the Holy Spirit]"* (1 Corinthians 1:2). Noting the practical significance of this fact, John Calvin observes:

This is a passage that ought to be carefully observed, that we may not require that the church, while in this world, should be free from every wrinkle and stain, or forthwith pronounce unworthy of such a title every society in which everything is not as well as we would wish it.

We may conclude that Paul had sent the church an earlier letter (which has not survived) exhorting the believers not to associate with sexually immoral people (1 Corinthians 5:9). Not only had Paul written to the church, but they had also written to Paul requesting instruction about such matters as marriage and divorce, food offered to idols, spiritual gifts, and the method Paul was using for his collection (1 Corinthians 7:1).

QUESTIONS:

1. What very important lesson does John Calvin derive from Paul's identity of the Corinthian church by their relation to each of the three persons of the Trinity? How should this perspective affect your attitude toward other Christian denominations? (Answers may vary.)
2. Take a few moments to review the problems of the Corinthian church, and ask how these problems may or may not be present in your church, school, or organization. (Answers may vary.)
3. What other issues not mentioned in 1 Corinthians can you identify as creating serious problems in your church? (Answers may vary.)

DAY FIVE:

Paul's introductory remarks to the Corinthian church

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul further affirms the union of this church *“with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus”* (1 Corinthians 1:2). Without doubt they are a part of the universal body of Christ. He also notices the positive aspect of this community of Christians. They are *“not lacking in any gift”* (1 Corinthians 1:7). They must be recognized as having an abundance—even an overabundance—of the Spirit's gifts. In addition, he is confident of their ultimate destiny, for they are *“waiting expectantly”* for the consummate revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:7). The possession of God's Holy Spirit serves as the guarantee of their eternal inheritance, for God is faithful, who will carry on his work of salvation to the end (1 Corinthians 1:8).

In opening his remarks with these encouragements, Paul prepares the Corinthian church for the corrections he will immediately introduce, for he does not wish them to despair after he has admonished them over so many matters.

The apostle refers to Jesus Christ no less than nine times in these opening nine verses. As in all of Paul's thinking, Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone is the only answer to all the problems of God's people.

Questions:

1. How would you explain the “great and joyful paradox” that arises when the introductory remarks of Paul are compared with the substance of his letter? (Answers may vary.)
2. What realities does Paul point to as a firm foundation for a positive perspective on the Corinthian church despite all its problems? How can these same realities serve as an encouragement to the individual Christian, including yourself? (Answers may vary.)
3. Rehearse the five questions raised by the Corinthians in their letter to Paul. Have each member of your group write on a piece of paper the single question that seems most relevant to their current situation. Collect the pieces of paper, read the results, and discuss the reasons for the various choices. (Answers may vary.)

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1 Corinthians

Adult Lesson

PASSAGE
1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

MEMORY VERSE
"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" (1 CORINTHIANS 1:18).

DOCTRINAL FOCUS
EVEN THE MOST PROBLEM-FILLED OF CHURCHES MAY STILL BE TRUE CHURCHES OF CHRIST BECAUSE OF THEIR UNION WITH THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

CATECHISM
QUESTION: HOW DO THE SACRAMENTS BECOME EFFECTUAL MEANS OF SALVATION?
ANSWER: THE SACRAMENTS BECOME EFFECTUAL MEANS OF SALVATION, NOT FROM ANY VIRTUE IN THEM, OR IN HIM THAT DOTHS ADMINISTER THEM; BUT ONLY BY THE BLESSING OF CHRIST, AND THE WORKING OF HIS SPIRIT IN THEM THAT BY FAITH RECEIVE THEM.

Lesson 1: Introduction to the Church of Corinth

Day One

Read Acts 18:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9.

Generally Paul's letters to the Corinthians are not regarded as having the same significance as his letter to the Romans. The basic beliefs of Christianity are clearly laid out in Paul's letter to the Romans, while the Corinthian correspondence gives the appearance of dealing with a number of peculiar problems in this early church that have little significance for the church of today.

Yet the letters to Corinth address perennial problems that the church faces in differing forms in every generation, for Christianity addresses the way its adherents are to live as well as what they are to believe.

In introducing this study four matters will be considered:

1. The city of Corinth
2. The gospel in Corinth
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4. Paul's introductory remarks

THE CITY OF CORINTH

The city of Corinth was strategically located on the western end of the isthmus (the narrow strip of land) that joins the mainland of Greece with its southwestern extremity known as the Peloponnesus. Corinth provided the essential connection with the intellectual center of Athens and the militant center of Sparta. All movement going west from Athens or other parts of the Grecian peninsula had to pass through Corinth. In addition, ships moving their trade up the western coast of Greece from the Mediterranean had to unload their cargo and carry it across the four-mile strip of land to the sea on the other side. In the first century, Nero who was emperor of Rome, sought to construct a channel across the isthmus, but it was not completed until many centuries later in 1893. The population of the city became quite wealthy due to its abundant commerce. Its locale made Corinth a primary point for the transport of goods between Asia, Africa, and Europe. As a consequence, it has been called the "chief city of Greece, not only in authority but in wealth, magnificence, literature, the arts, and in luxury" (Hodge 4).

Corinth was universally known as a pleasure-loving, decadent community. The designation "Corinthian" was equivalent to "one who practices fornication." In classical Greek, "to act the Corinthian" meant "to practice fornication" (Bruce 367).

According to one commentator,

There were more than a thousand prostitutes connected with the temple of Aphrodite [the Greek goddess of love] in old Corinth. . . Shrines were “everywhere” erected to “Aphrodite. . . as patroness of harlots”. . . , this was presumably the reason for the “ancient custom in Corinth. . . whenever the city prays to Aphrodite in matters of grave importance, to invite as many prostitutes as possible to join in their petitions” (Morris).

It is not difficult to see why the Christian gospel faced serious challenges as it sought to transform this corrupt community.

Another matter of significance for Corinth was its role as sponsor of the Isthmian Games, similar to the Olympic Games. All the glamour associated with the trained athlete and the muscular body also became a matter of great significance to the Corinthian.

THE GOSPEL IN CORINTH

After his stay in Athens and his memorable sermon on Mars Hill among the intelligentsia of the Greeks (Acts 17:16-34), Paul proceeded across the narrow four-mile-wide isthmus to Corinth (Acts 18:1). As has been noted, “To leave Athens for Corinth was to exchange an intellectual for a sensuous atmosphere” (Purves 194). Yet the gospel found an initial success in Corinth that was not evident in Athens. As a consequence of an encouraging vision, Paul remained in Corinth a year and a half teaching the word of God (Acts 18:11). Although Paul subsequently wrote several letters to Corinth, no evidence exists of any further contact with Athens.

A BASIC OUTLINE OF 1 CORINTHIANS INTRODUCTION (1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9)

A. Response to News from Corinth (1:10 – 6:20)

1. About Divisive Pride over Persons and its Solution (1:10 – 4:21)
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B. Questions Raised in Their Letter to the Apostle (7:1 – 16:4)

1. About Marriage (7:1-40)
2. About Christian Liberty (8:1 – 11:1)
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6. Conclusion (16:5-24)

PAUL’S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS (1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9)

The Corinthian church might justly be characterized as a church with problems, problems, problems. These problems were not minor distractions of an otherwise healthy manifestation of Christ’s body and bride. Instead, they struck at the root of Christian practice and belief. Deep divisions marred their unity. A kind of immorality existed among them that would not even be mentioned among heathen peoples.

Confusion clouded a proper understanding of God's ordinance of marriage. Abuse of Christian liberty and the Lord's Supper had become so blatant that some of their members had been struck dead by the hand of an offended God. Pride over gifts graciously given by the Holy Spirit created chaos in the sacred hour of worshipful assembly. Some among them openly denied the cardinal doctrine of the resurrection of the body. This was, indeed, a deeply troubled church!

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This is a passage that ought to be carefully observed, that we may not require that the church, while in this world, should be free from every wrinkle and stain, or forthwith pronounce unworthy of such a title every society in which everything is not as well as we would wish it (Calvin 51).

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In opening his remarks with these encouragements, Paul prepares the Corinthian church for the corrections he will immediately introduce, for he does not wish them to despair after he has admonished them over so many matters (Calvin).

The apostle refers to Jesus Christ no less than nine times in these opening nine verses. As in all of Paul's thinking, Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone is the only answer to all the problems of God's people.

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Day Two

1. Assuming that Paul's letters to the Romans and to the Corinthians were written at about the same time, how do you see their differing significance in the life of the church as it was just being formed?
2. What cities of the world today might you compare with Corinth, both in its wealth and its decadence? In what way do you see them also needing a word from God with very practical implications?
3. Can you think of any religious practices today that join supposed piety with sexual immorality? How would you compare people's interest in various sports activities today such as soccer's World Cup, baseball's World Series, and (American) football's Super Bowl to the Isthmian Games of Corinth?

Day Three:

1. Review the narratives of Acts 17 and 18 that record the response to the Christian message in Athens and Corinth. How would you compare these two cities in terms of their cultural focus and their response to the gospel?

2. Compare your own village, town or city to these two ancient locales in terms of cultural focus and response to the gospel.
3. Review the “Basic Outline” of 1 Corinthians. What are the two main divisions of the book?

Day Four:

1. List as many encouraging things about the church in Corinth as you can find in chapter 1, verses 4-9. Discuss Paul’s wisdom in beginning on this positive note.
2. Considering the five different questions raised by the Corinthians in chapters 7 – 16 as noted in the Basic Outline, which would you consider most pressing in your church today? Why?
3. What other issues not mentioned in 1 Corinthians can you identify as creating serious problems in your church?

Day Five:

1. How would you explain the “great and joyful paradox” that arises when the introductory remarks of Paul are compared with the substance of his letter?
2. What very important lesson does John Calvin derive from Paul’s identity of the Corinthian church by their relation to each of the three persons of the Trinity? How should this perspective affect your attitude toward other Christian denominations?
3. What realities does Paul point to as a firm foundation for a positive perspective on the Corinthian church despite all its problems? How can these same realities serve as an encouragement to the individual Christian, including you?

For Weekend Reflection or the Staff Meeting

Days Six and Seven:

1. Sing “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation,” *Rafiki Hymnal*, p. 30.
2. Take a few moments to review the problems of the Corinthian church, and ask how these problems may or may not be present in your church, school or organization.
3. Go through the same procedure with the points of encouragement mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:1-9.
4. Rehearse the five questions raised by the Corinthians in their letter to Paul. Have each member of your group write on a piece of paper the single question that seems most relevant to their current situation. Collect the pieces of paper, read the results, and discuss the reasons for the various choices.

1 CORINTHIANS LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH

PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

MEMORY VERSE:

"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" (1 Corinthians 1:18).

DAY ONE: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-2 AND ACTS 18:1-18.

Principle/Lessons: A strong church existed in the city of Corinth.

Questions: Corinth was both a wealthy and a corrupt city. What cities today are like Corinth and need to hear the Word of God?

DAY TWO: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-3.

Principle/Lessons: The gospel took root in Corinth.

Questions: How did God encourage Paul to keep teaching and preaching in Corinth?

DAY THREE: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9.

Principle/Lessons: Paul wrote his letter to the Corinthians in two parts.

Questions: Paul addressed problems in the Corinthian church and answered the church's questions. What issue or problem might a church today face?

DAY FOUR: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9.

Principle/Lessons: The church of Corinth was deeply troubled.

Questions: Though the church had deep problems, what were some ways Paul said they were blessed?

DAY FIVE: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9.

Principle/Lessons: The church of Corinth was a work of God.

Questions: What phrases in verses 1 through 9 confirm the Corinthian church was a work of God?

DEVOTIONAL POINTS:

On his third missionary journey, the Apostle Paul, at the Lord's encouragement, stayed 18 months in the wealthy and corrupt city of Corinth, preaching the gospel and establishing a strong church. Later Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthian church. He also wrote a letter to the church in Rome. In Romans, Paul highlighted the basic beliefs of Christianity, but in 1 Corinthians he addressed problems and questions in the church. His letters show us that Christians need to pay attention to the way they live as well as what they believe. Though Paul called out the deep problems in the Corinthian church, he also clearly showed that God had begun a work of change in the peoples' hearts and would complete it. No church is free from the influence of sin, but it is a true church if it is united with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

CATECHISM:

Question: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

Answer: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

HYMN:

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

The Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation." Is. 28:16

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are as follows:

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion, Christ the head and cor-ner-stone,
2. All that ded-i-cat-ed cit-y, dear-ly loved of God on high,
3. To this tem-ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of hosts, to-day:
4. Here vouch-safe to all thy ser-vants what they ask of thee to gain,
5. Laud and hon-or to the Fa-ther, laud and hon-or to the Son,
cho-sen of the Lord and pre-cious, bind-ing all the church in one;
in ex-ul-tant ju-bi-la-tion pours per-pet-ual mel-o-dy;
• with thy wont-ed lov-ing-kind-ness hear thy peo-ple as they pray;
what they gain from thee for-ev-er with the bless-ed to re-tain,
laud and hon-or to the Spir-it, ev-er Three and ev-er One,
ho-ly Zi-on's help for-ev-er, and her con-fi-dence a-lone.
God the One in Three a-dor-ing in glad hymns e-ter-nal-ly.
• and thy full-est ben-e-dic-tion shed with-in its walls al-way.
and here-af-ter in thy glo-ry ev-er-more with thee to reign.
One in might, and One in glo-ry, while un-end-ing a-ges run.

Latin, 7th cent.
Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851
Alt. in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry Smart, 1876

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