

FIRST CORINTHIANS

Dissonance Theory | Week 1

1. Catch Up On Life:

Life is better together. Whether we are celebrating wins with one another or catching each other up on the difficult things that are happening. Use this time to listen and share.

- What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?
- How have you seen Jesus at work in your life this week?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2. Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?

- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?

Plan:

- How can we make an inviting space for our friends to come experience our community this week? Where have we struggled to do this in the past?

Pray: Pray for God to pursue and rescue people in our city.

3. Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Primary Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Related Passages: Acts 18:1-11

Read and Recap: Have someone read **1 Corinthians 1:1-9** and recap the highlights from this week's sermon.

- What stood out to you about the city of Corinth from the sermon? Are there any similarities between Corinth and Columbia?

The problem with the church in Corinth was that the values of the culture had infiltrated the church (there was too much Corinth in the church).

- In what ways have the values of our culture infiltrated your life?

- How have the values of our culture infiltrated our LifeGroup? What about our church as a whole? (This isn't about your preferences--the goal is to discern where too much America/Columbia has gotten into our church).
- What's your role and responsibility in helping our church family look less like our culture and more like the kingdom of God?

Read verses 7-9 again. Paul begins his letter by reassuring them of the gospel and telling them that:

1. Jesus will sustain them to the end.
 2. They will stand guiltless before Christ.
 3. God is faithful to do what He's promised.
 4. They've been called into the very fellowship of his Son Jesus.
- What struggles in your life are those statements good news for?
 - How does the gospel motivate you to reduce the dissonance in your life and become the person God declares you to be through Jesus?

*Every Group
Around the Pool*

- As we are being missionaries in our city, where are the problems that arise if we act more like our culture than the church?

Pray that God would provide us assurance that we will stand guiltless before Him, and that through his Spirit we would be motivated to share this good news.

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

- What sinful thoughts or habits have you seen in yourself this week? What false beliefs about God does this reveal? What truth does the gospel share in response?
- What steps of repentance do you need to take? How can we help you walk in repentance?
- Is there any relational weirdness with anyone in your life? How can you lovingly restore peace with them?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins in prayer and pray for each other.