

FIRST CORINTHIANS

Unity Without Uniformity | Week 2

"Long-term interpersonal relationships are the crucible of genuine progress in the Christian life. People who stay grow."

- Joseph Hellerman

1. Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we're praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?
- What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

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:

- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

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 1:10-17

Read and Recap: Have someone read **1 Corinthians 1:10-17**. Recap the highlights from this week's sermon.

- The church in Corinth was divided over leadership preferences. In what ways have you seen this issue (or any other issue) become divisive?
- Have any of your preferences become requirements in forming unified relationships in our church family? How so?
- What happens when these preferences take importance over the identity we share in Christ?
- What's the appropriate way to handle our preferences and disagreements as the family of Christ?
- How might you need to repent and be reconciled this week?

*Every Group
Around the Pool*

- What dangers arise if we hold on to preferences that don't matter while trying to build missional relationships?

Pray that the Holy Spirit would help reveal in us of where we are elevating our preferences over Jesus. Pray that God would unite us as a LifeGroup and as a church family to better live on mission.

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 are some unhealthy things you've done in the last week to escape from responsibility, fear, or pressure?
- What false beliefs about God does this reveal in yourself? What truth does the gospel share in response?? (Rest of LG speak into their lives: How does the gospel address and free him/her up?)
- Have you been holding on to hurt or resentment towards anyone in our family because of preferences that have been elevated over unity?

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.