



Could Jesus live in Corinth? In our opening lesson exploring First Corinthians, we are going to put on a set of lenses to see the church and the world anew. These 7 lenses show how a Christian can navigate their way in a dark world and yet see others (and themselves) in the light of hope. Yes, Jesus could live in Corinth. Will Corinth see Jesus in us?

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breakers:

(1) What do you like best about big cities? What do you like least about big cities?

(2) Which do you think is a bigger problem: too little church in the world or too much world in the church?

WHAT WE SEE. Read Acts 18:1-17. What are some ways the world seems too lost? What are some ways the church seems too clueless? What are some ways the culture seems too fragile? How did Corinth seem too lost? How did the Corinthian church seem too clueless? How did the culture of that time seem too fragile?

Why did Jesus say “don’t be afraid...I have many people in this city”? Since there was a synagogue (but no church), and most of the small church Paul founded were former pagan Gentiles (1 Cor 12:2), what did Jesus mean?

HOW GOD SEES. Read 1 Cor 1:1-9, 26-30. How does Paul describe the church in Corinth? Is this surprising to you?

Read Gal 5:25. For Paul, what is true in reality (the indicative) is the reason and motivation for what we are called to pursue (the imperative). List examples from the NT (Put on Christ—Gal 3:27; Rom 13:14; sanctified—1 Cor 6:11; 1 Thess 4:3; etc.).

Since we are loved, called, and rescued (Exodus), we obey (Sinai). Discuss.

SEVEN LENSES. Read Eph 4:1-6. Practice the 7 hand gestures to learn these:

One Lord (thumb); One God (first finger); One Faith (two fingers); One Body (ring finger); One Baptism (pinky); One Spirit (palm); One Hope (raised palm).

How do these 7 “ones” form the basis for Paul’s ethics? Discuss passages where Paul uses them to argue “since these are true, we ought to behave better.”

Can you find these 7 ones in 1 Corinthians?

CHALLENGING QUESTIONS.

Unity. With fresh eyes, how do we unite around Jesus in the church when there is so much division in our culture?

Discipleship. With fresh eyes, how do we faithfully follow Jesus as the church when his word is so counter to our culture?

Mission. With fresh eyes, how do we love like Jesus through the church when so many people need the gospel across our culture?

Are we offering a vibrant, attractive, alternative story to the world?