



For Paul, there is one body, entered into through one baptism, by which we were all given one Spirit. That means we are free, church! That means we are empowered to be different. That means we have access to truth. That means we are made part of a community. That means we can bring glory and honor to Jesus Christ. And will that be seen in how we live? If it is, oh what lights we will be in a city full of worldly wisdom.

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-Breaker:

- (1) Look up a list of top Contemporary Christian Music songs. How many mention the Holy Spirit?
- (2) What images come to mind when you hear the words "spirit," "spirits," "spiritual," and "Holy Spirit"?

TALKING ABOUT THE SPIRIT. Read 1 Cor 2:1-5. Historically, how comfortable have you felt about discussing the Holy Spirit? Nathan said "It's not that we don't believe in Him; it's that we don't know what to believe about Him." Does this resonate with you?

The word "Spirit" (or spirit, spirits, spiritual, etc) appears 56 times in 1 Corinthians. What does this imply about the topic?

WORLDLY WISDOM. Read 1 Cor 1:20-21. What is "worldly wisdom"? Discuss the cultural gospel that we are led to believe from our culture. What spirit drives worldly wisdom? How can church-going Christians reflect "worldly wisdom" mixed in with the true gospel?

POWERLESS VS. POWER. Read 1 Cor 2:4-5. How is worldly wisdom powerless? How is it a swindler, dealing in false goods? Conversely, how is the Spirit the power of God? Power to do or be what?

CONCEALER VS. REVEALER. Read 1 Cor 2:10 & 12:1-3. How does worldly wisdom conceal (dishonesty, lack of transparency). How does the Spirit reveal?

CONFUSER VS. INTERPRETER. Read 1 Cor 2:11-16 & 12:28-30. How does worldly wisdom confuse? Why is it comforting to know the Spirit promises to interpret what He reveals? What do you think it means that the natural person "is not able to understand" spiritual things?

TAKER VS. GIVER. Read 12:4-11. How does worldly wisdom end up taking but never giving? In contrast, discuss how the Spirit is the life-giver and giver of gifts. Why does it matter to believe God has gifted you?

DIVIDER VS. UNITER. Read 12:12-27. How does worldly wisdom pit us against one another? Conversely, how does the Spirit unite us? What is Paul's basis for unity in this passage?

WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS. Read 2 Cor 3:12-18. Discuss these four powerful words: transformation, freedom, truth, and love. How are these promises from the Spirit important when it comes to Christian living (especially living *together*).