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Watch this video for an introduction to 1 Corinthians:

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## Read all of 1 Corinthians chapter 4.

### Study Questions

1. In verses **1 Corinthians 4:10-13**, Paul describes the hardships he had faced as a servant of Christ. What hardships did Paul describe?
2. The world would declare the hardships Paul describes as foolishness. Why would the world tell Paul these struggles for Christ are foolish? What does the world not understand about the wisdom of God? How does inner peace outweigh material comforts? **Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-20**
3. In **1 Corinthians 4:16**, Paul urges believers in Corinth to imitate him. What kind of example had Paul set for believers? Why is it important for a follower of Christ to live the wisdom of God?
4. As we read Scripture and learn the wisdom of God, we can use a method of Bible meditation called S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S
  - a. S- Is there a sin to confess?
  - b. P-Is there a promise to claim?
  - c. A-Is there an attitude to change?
  - d. C-Is there a command to obey?
  - e. E-Is there an example to follow?
  - f. P-Is there a prayer to pray?
  - g. E-Is there an error to avoid?
  - h. T-Is there a truth to believe?
  - i. S-Is there something to praise God for?

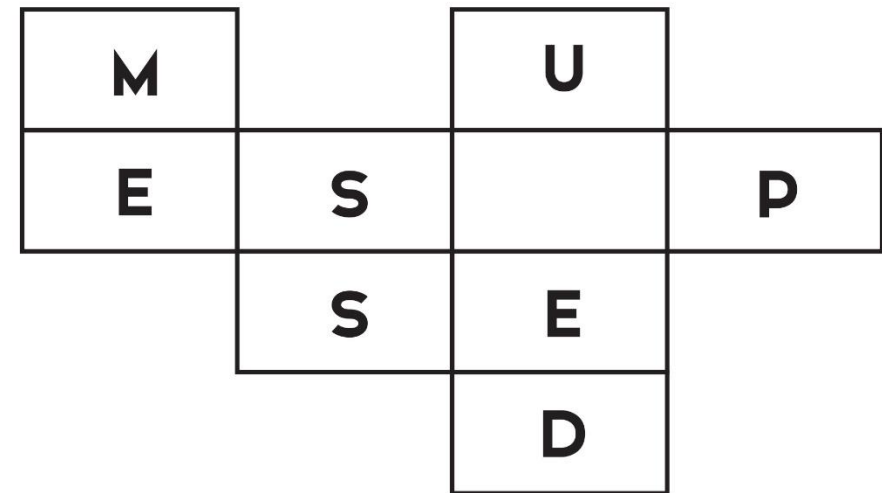
**Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-16** from this weekend's message. Take time to search each of these questions through these verses.

### Personal Reflection

1. In **1 Corinthians 4:5**, the verse explains the Lord will disclose the motives of each person's heart. This past weekend, Paul talked about the wisdom of God. Instead of the motives of our heart being focused on living for ourselves for temporary ends, by fighting for wealth, power and position, we want to be people who live for Christ. How are you investing in service and love? How are you focusing on eternal things?
2. Paul urges the believers in Corinth to imitate him. Reflect on your own journey with Christ. How is God's wisdom reflected in your life? In what areas could you tell someone they could follow you as you follow Christ? What about the areas of struggle in your journey? Where do you need God's wisdom to take root? Who might be an example of God's wisdom for you to follow as you seek to take your next step?
3. In **1 Corinthians 4:20**, what did Paul mean when he said the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power? Why is it important for a follower of Christ not to simply speak words, but to live wisdom by God's power in us by His Holy Spirit?
4. In **1 Corinthians 4:21**, Paul asks if the Corinthians would prefer for him to come with a rod or with love and a spirit of gentleness. When we share the wisdom of God, why is it important we do so with love and a spirit of gentleness? How do you best accept wisdom and direction in your own life?
5. Take time to pray the prayer of Saint Francis throughout our study of 1 Corinthians.

### Prayer of Saint Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy;  
Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive; in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



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