



Home Group study: week beginning 25th September 2022

THEME: CORINTH A CHURCH ON THE WILD SIDE - WILD EYED AND FEARFUL

PASSAGE: 1 CORINTHIANS 2 vs 1—16

LAUNCH

Get people to tell of a time they visited a new country and found it strange, different, disorientating, shocking.

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

Read Acts 18:1-18

It describes Paul's first visit to Corinth in about AD51, about 20 years after Jesus died. From what people in your group know about Corinth at that time, share what you have to say about it. Try to draw out the cosmopolitan nature of the place, the debauchery and spiritual darkness of it. There's a good description of it in the NIV Study Bible intro to 1 Corinthians if you need more info.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

From these verses, what has Paul got to say about the following 3 things:

1. His approach to evangelism: (he concentrated on the message of 'Christ, and him crucified' - v2). Ed Piorek has written a great book called 'The Central Event', meaning Christ's death and Resurrection. Why is it the central event?
2. How he felt about being there: (He came 'wild eyed and fearful' to Corinth, says one translation). Does that describe anyone in your group (in their feelings about evangelism that is, of course!)?
3. What he relied on as he ministered: (Actually it's a 'who'. He relied on 'a demonstration of the Spirit's power' in his ministry). Why? Do we? Could we more? Recommend 'Power Evangelism' by John Wimber, and 'Scattered Servants' by Alan Scott. They are full of this.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

It's clear the Corinthian church mirrored the society it grew from when Paul wrote a couple of years after his visit, from Ephesus. How much did it look like our society today!?

Paul spends the rest of this letter, and 2 Corinthians, with instruction and correction. But these verses here have something else to say. Try to describe them together, and think about how they might help us as we live in today's society.

FURTHER (OPTIONAL) DISCUSSION

If you are up for it, you could look at some great verses in Ephesians that explain what God's mystery is, and how we are called to bring him glory - which was his purpose in creating humanity. The following sections are inspirational: 1:8b-14; 17-19a; 3:4-12.

They need ruminating on, and what better way than learning them. That way you can call them up in your mind to ponder wherever and whenever you are.

APPLICATION

Pray about all of these things, and particularly for our mission as ‘good news people living in a bad news world’ as Gavin Calver, the CEO of the Evangelical Alliance put it recently.