

Sermon Discussion Guide
March 17, 2024
1 Corinthians 2:1-5



Read the sermon text (1 Corinthians 2:1-5) together and briefly summarize the main points of the sermon (see outline below). Recapping the sermon text and sermon outline can be a helpful way to start the group, even if everyone did hear the sermon. If someone did not hear the sermon, at least they have now heard the text, or part of the text...

The Power of the Cross
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Sermon Outline

The power of the cross is demonstrated by...

1. The content of the message—crucified Christ
2. The delivery of the message—crippled messenger.
3. The effect of the message—concrete faith.

Sermon Thought: Our faith is not in any human messenger, but only in the crucified Christ.

Sermon Discussion questions

*After briefly reviewing the message outline and text, use these questions to further examine the sermon and to discuss how these truths apply to daily life, so we can “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22). Based on your knowledge of the people in your home group, **select the questions that will best help you frame the group’s discussion** of this sermon and sermon text. Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question... And feel free to craft some of your own questions.*

1. “Prime the Pump” question—have you ever misunderstood a text or an email? What happened?
2. Was there anything in the sermon or the text that stood out to you?
3. Paul preached only Jesus Christ, our crucified Savior. Many people want other versions of Jesus. Which of these have you seen people pursue? What is the end result?
 1. “Genie in a bottle Jesus”
 2. “Great human teacher Jesus”
 3. “Jesus who lives at the church”
 4. “Entourage Jesus”
 5. Any other “versions” of Jesus you can think of that people try to pursue today?

4. Every human being needs the crucified Jesus. Why do so many people nowadays feel as though they do NOT need him?
5. Use your imagination a little bit to let this analogy play out... if we are on a "sinking ship" apart from God, what does Jesus represent? (Possible example: life preserver?)
6. Read Romans 5:8. How is the cross the greatest demonstration of love that the world has ever seen?
7. Read 1 Cor. 2:3-4, Zech. 4:6. Why do you think Paul is so adamant that people recognize that he is not using skilled rhetoric or persuasive speech? Why is this so important to him?
8. Read Acts 18:1-11. Why do you think Paul was afraid, and what did God tell him to do? (vv.10-11)
9. Paul emphasizes the fact that he is not the kind of orator or preacher that the Corinthian believers would have expected. Read these verses, and for each one, what is Paul emphasizing about his understanding of his task?
 1. 1 Cor. 1:17
 2. 2 Cor. 2:17
 3. 2 Cor. 4:5
 4. 2 Cor. 4:7
10. The greatest demonstration of God's power is a transformed life. Read 1 Cor. 2:4; 6:9-11; 1 Thess. 1:9-10. How is the power of the Holy Spirit demonstrated, according to these verses?
11. Application for preachers and teachers—is Paul saying that preachers and teachers should deliberately preach/teach poorly? Why or why not?
12. Application for all believers—Some individuals are timid or afraid to share the gospel. How does 1 Cor. 2:3-4 encourage a person who is timid or afraid?
13. Respond to this statement: "Every person—even an atheist—has faith in something." Do you agree or disagree?
14. Why do you think that God wanted you to see/hear this passage today?
15. Text for next week: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16