

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Communion

These questions are for the **October 6, 2019** sermon, "The Word of the Cross." Please read the sermon passage (1 Corinthians 1:18-25) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE REFLECT UPON THE CROSS OF CHRIST, NOTE . . .

1. The distinctions God makes (18)
 - a. God has shown the word of the cross to be both wisdom and power.
 - i. WISDOM: What Christ did on cross is both sufficient and necessary.
 1. This is God's one-and-only way to save sinners and display justice.
 2. The world denigrates God's wisdom, calling it "folly."
 - ii. POWER: What Christ did on the cross is the substance of God's love.
 1. In a resurrected Savior, God shows his power over death.
 2. The world denigrates God's power, calling it "weakness."
 - b. Each of us is in one of two categories: trusting God's wisdom or rejecting it.
2. The questions God poses (19-21)
 - a. Every one of God's plans and intentions are wise.
 - i. Those who are wise in their own eyes are actually foolish.
 - ii. "Where are these 'wise' ones?"
 - b. The world will always esteem the substance of our word about the cross as folly.
3. The attributes God reveals (22-25)
 - a. People who love wisdom will reject the cross on the basis of their own desire. For them, the cross is not wise, but folly.
 - b. People who love power will reject the cross on the basis of their own values. For them, they cannot produce enough "signs" and power to satisfy.
 - c. For those who are being saved, the cross is the essence of perfect wisdom and power.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God makes categories: people either humble themselves and receive God's wisdom and power, or they lean on themselves and their own definitions of wisdom and power. One either trusts God completely or rejects him. Central in this discussion is the cross of Jesus Christ. What are some "on ramps" that have helped you have important conversations about the wisdom and power of the cross of Christ?
2. Based on #2, above: It can be advantageous to ask the question, "Where are the wise ones?" This can lead us to discuss ultimate issues such as morality, or more importantly, death. Every "wise one" who trusts her own wisdom has died or will die. Those who are wise in their own eyes will be proven foolish. In what are you learning to use questions to engage people in discussions about Jesus? Are you bold enough to hold to God's wisdom unashamedly?
3. Based on #3, above: God is both all-wise and all-powerful. The cross of Jesus is not a "Plan B" or an accident. Discuss this: The cross is the pinnacle of God's wisdom and power. End your discussion with this: the wisdom of man substitutes man for God, trying to work our way to him, while the wisdom of God is God substituting himself for man, coming to rescue us.