



# Growth Group Discussion Guide

"Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward"

*For the Week of February 6, 2016*



## 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:5

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." 20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. 26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

### Sermon Outline

- It this passage Paul compares the wisdom of humanity to the wisdom of God.
- In this way, Paul is helping the church at Corinth to see the foolishness of taking on the ways of the world over and above the ways of God.
- This church had become worldly and prideful and Paul was attempting to help them take on a more humble outlook and submit to God.

### WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- What is something foolish you did as a child that could've been very dangerous?
- What is something you've discovered to be much easier when you do it God's way?

### WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. Why does Paul say that the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing?
2. Who are "those who are perishing?"
3. How did the message of a Messiah who was killed on a cross fly in the face of what the 1<sup>st</sup> century world was looking for?
4. How does the message of the cross still seem foolish today?
5. What is the power of the cross?
6. How was it wise of God to provide salvation in this way?
7. What other instructions from the Bible seem counter-intuitive to you?
8. Why was Paul saying that it was foolish of God to call the Corinthians to the gospel?

1 And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

9. Why did he say his own preaching was foolish?
10. What are some of the idols of our culture and the church today?
11. How can we relay the gospel to our culture today as we think about these barriers to the gospel?
12. What are some ways you are rethinking your values according to the kingdom of God rather than this world?

**WITNESS - Prayer Concerns from my Growth Group:**

- Who has God placed in your life who does not know Christ?
- How can we pray for *your* spiritual growth tonight?
- What other prayer concerns do you have?