

STUDY GUIDE WEEK 3



KEY VERSE OF WEEK 3

"So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives growth."

1 Corinthians 3: 7

CONTEXT

The Corinthians thought of themselves as spiritual. Their aim however was to become consumers of wisdom and they were aligning themselves with their favorite leader. They had become divided and pride was at the root of their division. They had bought into the Corinthian culture of their day which was based on Meritocracy. In a lot of ways, it's not very different from our culture today. Meritocracy is a system that believes if you work hard enough, you can achieve anything. Sounds a lot like our obsession with Self Help books doesn't it? And so the Corinthians themselves tried to work hard to help themselves. They prided themselves in what worked for them and aligned themselves with leaders they felt were popular in their particular way of thinking. This began to infiltrate inside the church as well. They began to think that they could "self-help" their Christian Maturity as well.

The church began to get divided by people who were aligned with the leadership of Paul...or people that aligned with the leadership of Apollos. They were missing the point. Simply hanging around or aligning yourself with a leader that was spiritually mature, didn't make you spiritually mature. It's only GOD that grows that in you.

It's tempting for us as Christ-followers today as well isn't it? Especially during this unique season of life where we can "attend" any church that has a live stream. We can glean from some of the best preachers on the planet at any time of the day. But don't think by just hanging out listening to the greatest sermons or even joining their churches will cause spiritual growth within you. God is who gives growth. Do not mistake where you are getting growth from. Let's be careful to not create idols out of our favorite podcasts, pastors, and mentors. They are still just people. God uses them to bring discipleship, but it's still God who brings the growth.

Are you getting in His Word and allowing Him to teach you? It's great to hear what He is speaking to others and through others, but make sure you are getting time just you and Him. The Bible Reading Page can help you spend time with Him in His Word.

Also, I would encourage you if you have ever criticized a leader or pastor as not being "deep enough" and that you just want to "go deeper" that perhaps deeper means you need to stop being a spiritual food critic and you need to move into the spiritual kitchen to start making disciples. Being a consumer of wisdom and teaching can turn you into a spiritually prideful person. We are called to make disciples that make disciples. That means you need to take what you are consuming and pass that along to others. This study is a great entry to beginning to make disciples.

Pray and ask The Lord if you are consuming or cooking this week.



Praying for you Sis!

Follow us on instagram @girlsministrycollective and use the #girlsministrycollective so we can cheer you on as you study with us in 1 Corinthians!



Whitley Lent
GIRLS MINISTER

"GOD GIVES THE GROWTH"

1 CORINTHIANS 3

IN THE BEGINNING OF CHAPTER 3, PAUL TALKS ABOUT IMMaturity AMONG THE BELIEVERS IN CORINTH. WHAT WERE THESE SIGNS? AND WHAT MIGHT BE SOME OTHER SIGNS OF IMMaturity IN OUR OWN LIVES? WHAT DOES GOD CALL US TO DO?

THE BELIEVERS IN CORINTH HAD SHIFTED THEIR GAZE FROM CHRIST TO THEMSELVES, AND PRIDE HAD BEGUN TO GROW. WHAT IS PRIDE? AND WHY WAS PAUL SO CONCERNED ABOUT IT?

DO YOU EVER COMPARE YOUR MINISTRY/TESTIMONY/MISSION/ABILITIES TO SOMEONE ELSE'S? WHAT DOES PAUL HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS TYPE OF MINDSET?

LOOK AT VERSES 6-7 AGAIN, WHAT IS PAUL MEANING WHEN HE SAYS "GOD GIVES THE GROWTH" AND WHAT DOES THAT CALL US AS BELIEVERS TO DO?

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES OF THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH?

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL YOU ABOUT GOD? HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE CHALLENGE YOU? WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE AFTER READING THIS PASSAGE?

PRAY

Before you start to read the chapter of the week, ask The Lord to help you read His Word today. Ask Him to teach you today. Ask Him to see things in your own life you can't see. Ask Him to help you take what you read and apply it.

READ

What verses are you reading from today? _____

What version of the bible are you reading it in today? (Try reading it in 3 different translations. Circle the translations you are reading it in below.)

Formal Translations:

"word for word" translation

New American Standard
English Standard Version
Holman Christian Standard
Revised Standard Version
New RSV

Functional Translations:

"Thought for thought"

New International Version
New American Bible
Revised English Bible
Good News Bible
New Living Translation

Free Translations:

"A Paraphrase"

New English Bible
Living Bible
The Message

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Write out what is happening in the verses you read. Put it in your own words.

APPLY

Reflect on what you just read, and walk through these questions with Jesus.

Is there a sin I need to confess to Him and ask Him to forgive me?

Is there a truth that I need to believe today?

Is there a promise that I need to hear and hold on to today?

Is there something I need to ask The Lord to help me live differently because of what I just read?

QUESTIONS

What questions came up when you read the verses today? Were there words or customs that you didn't understand? Write those out. Those are important to not just pass over. Those are some of the ways He calls your attention to something you need to pay attention to in your own life.

PRAY/JOURNAL

Take some time to pray/journal after your time of reading. Ask God to change your heart so that you look more and more like Him and less and less like the world. Ask Him to break your heart for what breaks His heart. Ask Him to help you focus on Him and less on what is all around you.