

Dear Bible Study Leader,

“Now about the spiritual things, brethren, I do not want you be ignorant. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and lead astray by mute idols” (1 Corinthians 12:1-2).

Every church has its problems, and the church in first century Corinth had many: division, adultery, alcoholism, jealousy, pride, bad theology, and members fighting and even suing one another in the courts. You name the problem, and the church in Corinth had it. Well, thankfully, we have a divine record of how Paul led this church in problem solving God’s way. And for about the next three months, we will study these two books of 1 and 2 Corinthians and learn many valuable and relevant lessons for our church from this first century church’s mistakes. As we study the problems in Corinth, we will learn they are not so different from those in our churches.

There is also much misunderstanding and even heresy in our churches today from those who do not properly understand and apply what God is teaching us in these two little books of Paul, and that is why I long to help you know Paul’s inspired counsel. We will learn deep spiritual truths and extremely specific solutions for our lives, families, and churches. These two pastoral letters are not like the theological masterpiece we saw in Romans and are easier for us to understand.

I rejoice that we can do this practical devotional survey study of the New Testament together, and specifically that we can study these very relevant books of 1 and 2 Corinthians. We will look at the key problems and solutions they describe. As we study and lead others through these letters of Paul, we want to look for the devotional application of God’s Good News to our lives. As we study and teach others we want to prayerfully be asking and looking for God’s answers to the questions:

- What does this say? (Observation)
- What does it mean? (Interpretation)
- What does this mean to me and to those I am leading? (Application)

My prayer is that these studies will help you and those you will be leading **to get into God’s Word and get God’s Word into you**. When you allow the power of God’s Word through the power of God’s Holy Spirit to rule and reign in your life and in the life of your family and church, you will experience His love and abundant grace. As you study, it is my prayer that you will grow in your knowledge and faith and better know Jesus and the power, promises, and hope you have because of His resurrection.

The grace of our Lord be with you, bless you and guide you as you lead these studies.

Dick Woodward
Pastor and Author of the Mini Bible College

LEADING THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Mini Bible College has prepared this devotionally practical survey of the foundational books of the Bible. Your role as leader is to guide your group through the study sessions and exercises, helping them to understand the truth, discover the eternal principles, and, most importantly, apply them to their lives. This is a survey study that will take about three months and is designed to be more than just a course. This study is part of a strategic plan to provide you with the tools to nurture and grow personally and to help your church grow both spiritually and numerically.

To help you, we have provided the following tools:

- This Leader's Guide
- Report forms
- Audio of the 1-2 Corinthians series (Audio Lessons NT 44-54)
- A study booklet on 1-2 Corinthians
- A set of workbooks for the students

Before class

- Personally start inviting people to come to this spiritual banquet. "Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find." So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests." (Matthew 22:9-10).
- Prepare yourself in prayer for those who will attend. If possible, pray for them by name. Only God can change the hearts of people, and prayer is the most powerful tool. "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." (Luke 18:1).
- Ask for help. Do not try to do everything yourself. Invite one or two people to help with music, singing, greeting, and keeping records.
- Review the lesson and understand the lesson objective.
- Become familiar with the material: listen, read, and study each lesson and memorize the Bible verse before class time.
- Be sure all materials are ready for each class.
- Make sure the meeting area is adequate and comfortable for the class.

During Class

(Remember to try to keep the class time to one hour and a half.)

- Greet everyone as they arrive. Remember how nice it is when you are welcomed? Extend God's welcome to all. Have someone serve as the greeter and introduce people to one another if they are not already acquainted.
- Open with a time of worship and prayer, asking God to help you and each one understand and apply God's Word to your lives.
- Recite the memory verse.
- Listen to the audio lesson.

- Work through the workbook, inviting discussion with a focus on application. We trust the questions will raise interesting discussion and understanding that will lead to application. If the group is large (more than 10), consider dividing it into smaller groups of three or four people to encourage discussion. Be sure to monitor the time and be careful that the conversation does not detract from the focus of the lesson and the study of God's Word.
- Thank all for coming and encourage attendance at the next class.
- Challenge the students to invite others to join the Bible study.
- Encourage the students to memorize the biblical passages of the lessons each week.

After Each Class

- Gather up all materials.
- Restore the meeting room to the proper order. Leave things more orderly than you found them.
- Fill out and file report forms.
- If you are meeting in someone's home, be sure to thank them for their hospitality.

Special Instructions for Teaching Auditory Learners

It is important to remember that those who cannot read and write learn and retain information differently than those of us who are literate. The auditory learners learn from listening and telling what they have heard. Illiteracy was not an obstacle in Jesus' day. It is good to remember and even tell those in your class that most of the disciples and the majority of the people who first shared and spread the Gospel could not read or write.

In many ways, auditory learners have a greater capacity to learn what they hear than we who must write something down to remember it. Take the time, therefore, to allow your students to hear the Scripture and the lessons, pausing the message and even going back to listen again to a portion if it was not understood, and then allow them to respond to questions. When auditory learners can "story back"—tell in their own words what they have heard and learned—it indicates that they have properly grasped the principle. Therefore, use the study questions to guide the study time as they will help in the learning process. Ask the questions out loud and encourage all to participate. This will lead them into a deeper understanding of God's Word and a stronger relationship with His Son, Jesus the Christ.

Correction and Charisma in Corinth

Chapter 1

Audio Lesson: New Testament #44



Objective: To introduce and give an overview of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians and understand its major themes.



You do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. I appeal to you, brothers, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

—1 Corinthians 1:7-10

The first letter Paul wrote to the Corinthians is typical of the pastoral letters Paul wrote to the churches he founded during his ministry. Like most of his inspired letters, Paul's first letter to the Corinthians was written to a church he knew very well, in order to correct problems and to instruct and encourage believers in their faith and ours.

The first eleven chapters of 1 Corinthians address the specific problems Paul understood to be festering within the church. These were inhibiting their spiritual growth and their witness, individually, and as a church in the city of Corinth. The last four chapters are the constructive section of this letter that offers solutions to the church's problems. By examining these problems and the solutions Paul prescribed, we can gain insight into how to address those same problems when they show up in our churches today.



1. True or **false**? When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he was writing to a church he had never visited.
2. True or **false**? The Corinthian church was one of the few churches in the New Testament that had almost no problems in it.
3. **True** or false? Paul's first letter to the Corinthians has a lot of pastoral concern and advice in it.
4. **True** or false? The kinds of problems we have in churches today are often not much different from the kinds of problems in the Corinthian church.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. What kind of community was the Corinthian church?
 - a. A small group of nonbelievers who were investigating the gospel
 - b. Believers who met regularly in a household**
 - c. A large congregation in a large building
 - d. A local organization with a strong hierarchy of leadership
6. How did Paul know about the issues in the Corinthian church?
 - a. He always listened to as much gossip as people would tell him.
 - b. The Holy Spirit showed him in a vision.
 - c. People from the Corinthian church shared their concerns with him.**
 - d. He saw firsthand because he lived in Corinth.
7. What does it mean to be “sanctified”—the word Paul used to address the Corinthians?
 - a. To be sinless and perfect
 - b. To be more spiritual than average people
 - c. To be set apart for God's special use**
 - d. To have gone through all the rituals of conversion
8. What problems did the Corinthians have? (choose all that apply)
 - a. They were divided into factions.**
 - b. They had too many pastors.
 - c. They were very poor.
 - d. Some of them were openly immoral.**
 - e. They were too harsh in dealing with sin.
 - f. They had legal disputes with each other.**
 - g. They abused the Lord's Supper.**
 - h. They were too modest to claim that they had any spiritual gifts.
 - i. They were proud of spiritual gifts and mishandled them.**

9. What attitude did Paul say was more important than all others in exercising spiritual gifts?
- a. Zeal
 - b. Love**
 - c. Discipline
 - d. Ambition

10. According to Paul, what power can solve problems in the church?
- a. The power of Jesus' resurrection, which enables us to live in a new way**
 - b. The power of positive thinking
 - c. The power of the law God gave us in the Old Testament
 - d. The power of society's legal systems



Which of the Corinthians' spiritual problems can you relate to? How does our relationship with Jesus and His resurrection power help us overcome those problems?



Thank God that His Spirit has given us powerful and practical answers to the deepest needs of our hearts. Ask Him to fill you with His love and resurrection power as you trust Him and seek to follow Him daily. Pray that He would bless your study of His Word as you learn more about 1 and 2 Corinthians.



Going Deeper

1. Explain and apply the way Paul's inspired specific solutions for these problems in the Corinthian church gave us inspired masterpieces to use as a Pastoral Manual, as we address these problems in our churches today. _____

2. In addition to these specific solutions for individual problems, explain and apply the way love, as profiled in chapter 13, is a general solution for all of these problems. _____

3. Define and apply what Paul meant when he classified all of these problems as the carnal things in the Corinthian church, in chapter 12, he announces that he is then going to discuss with them the spiritual things in their church. _____

4. Explain and apply the spiritual things he addresses in this letter that are all part of the inspired general solutions that he prescribes for this church in this inspired pastoral corrective letter. _____

5. Explain and apply how resurrection power is part of the general solution to all of these specific problems. _____

6. After lifting us to the height of inspired eloquence in his discussion of resurrection in chapter 15, is he changing the subject abruptly or is he introducing another spiritual thing when he writes, "Now concerning the collection," in the first verse of chapter 16? Explain. _____

7. Explain and apply the bottom-line dynamic solution to the problem of the weaker brother and the issue of eating meat that had been offered in sacrifice to a pagan idol discussed in chapters 8-11. _____
