

Church: Life in God's Family—Readings and Reflections

Our latest teaching series is all about the Church—who we are in Christ, and what that means for life together. I hope that this reading plan will help you to engage with this series as we read and preach through the first few chapters of Paul's 1st letter to the Church in Corinth. They were a real mixed bag of people who'd come to believe in Jesus, and yet needed the Apostle's guidance for what it means to live faithfully as the Church Jesus had called them to be. The lessons they needed to hear are as relevant for us today as they were then, so let's pray that God increasingly makes us the people he's called us to be!

Each week, there's a reading, a question and a challenge which you might like to try...

Week 1, Sunday 15th Jan - A Holy Family

Read: *1 Corinthians 1:1-9*
Consider: What does it say about God's grace that imperfect people are called 'holy?'
Try: Pray for areas of your life that you know you need God's help to change.

Week 2, Sunday 22nd Jan - A United Family

Read: *1 Corinthians 1:10-17*
Consider: Why does Paul remind them they all belong to Jesus?
Try: Try and meet with someone from church you haven't spent much time with.

Week 3, Sunday 29th Jan - A Chosen Family

Read: *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*
Consider: The Corinthians were spiritually arrogant, so what does Paul remind them?
Try: Reflect on the clearest time in your life when God 'called' you to faith.

Week 4, Sunday 5th February - A Spirit-filled Family

Read: *1 Corinthians 2:1-16*
Consider: What is the amazing gift that Christians have received (v12)
Try: Ask God to grow his Spirit's gifts in you.

Week 5, Sunday 12th February - A Growing Family

Read: *1 Corinthians 3:1-9*
Consider: What should be the positive outcome of growing to maturity in faith? (vv2-3)
Try: Think about how you could grow in your feeding on God's Word (pto!)

Week 6, Sunday 19th February - A Sacred Family

Read: *1 Corinthians 3:10-17*
Consider: v16—If you believe in Jesus, you are part of God's temple—meditate on that!
Try: Notice architecture this week and reflect on God building us, his church.

Week 7, Sunday 26th February - A Christ-centred Family

Read: *1 Corinthians 3:18-23*
Consider: Why is it that belonging to Christ, removes all other need to boast?
Try: Re-read all of 1 Corinthians 1-3 in one go. There's much that Paul needs to correct, yet in those corrections we hear great truths about Christ's Church. What has particularly struck you, and how might this impact your life?