**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT***

* *Do you have any superstitions or rituals?*

***DIGGING DEEPER***

*Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

* *What are the two reactions to the message of the cross (v.18)?*
* *Will the Christian message ever sound impressive to the world? Why or why not?*
* *What can human wisdom never do?*
* *Read Philippians 2:6-11 and Colossians 1:19-23 What is the “message of the cross”? Why does it appear foolish to people today?*
* *So what will often happen when we tell people about Jesus? How is this a challenge to us?*
* *Had these Christians chosen God, or had He chosen them? (V.26-28)*
* *How impressive are these people by “human standards”? Why has God made the church like this?*
* *Christian leaders will not sound impressive. Christian churches will not look impressive. Who are Christians to see as “impressive”? (v.30 -31)*
* *If the whole church does as Paul tells them to in verse 31, why would that stop them being divided and help them stay united?*

***DISCUSS***

* *What does it mean that Christ is our righteousness, holiness, and redemption? How is He each of these things for us?*
* *In your experience are people today more like the Jews (who wanted miraculous signs) or the Greeks (who wanted philosophical evidence)?* 
  + *How does 1 Corinthians:18-31 encourage you in sharing the gospel?*
* *Do any of the passages from this week’s bible reading plan connect to the study you just completed?*

**180-Day Guided Tour of the Bible**

**Reading Plan for Week of April 15th**

**Day 131 –** John 14: One Final Meal Together

**Day 132 –** John 15: Vital Link

**Day 133 –** John 16: Grief into Joy

**Day 134 –** John 17: Commissioning

**Day 135 –** Matthew 26: Appointment with Destiny

Want to keep up with all that is going on at Wave? Simply fill out your communication card and write newsletter, to get a weekly

email update from Wave!

Messy Christianity | 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

“SHARING A SIMPLE GOSPEL IN A MESSY WORLD”

Wave Church SD | April 15, 2018

CHRISTIANITY IS MESSY:

MESSY PEOPLE, LIVING OUT A MESSY FAITH, IN A MESSY WORLD

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OUR MESSY WORLD NEEDS A SIMPLE GOSPEL

**1 Corinthians 1:17-19 (NIV)***For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.18For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”*

THE SIMPLE GOSPEL DIVIDES THE WORLD IN TWO | MATT 10:34-39

* THOSE SAVED BY THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE GOSPEL
* THOSE PERISHING BY THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD

**HOW TO SHARE A SIMPLE GOSPEL IN A MESSY WORLD…**

* HELP PEOPLE COMPREHEND THE GOSPEL, AND ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO CONVICT

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NIV)** *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. 2For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, 5so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.*

* FOCUS ON THE CROSS, NOT MORALITY
* REMEMBER GOD IS A MYSTERY. WE CAN ONLY KNOW WHAT HE WANTS US TO KNOW.

**1 Corinthians 1:20-21(ESV)** *20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.*

**WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL…**

* DETOURS FROM THE CROSS

**1 Corinthians 1:22-23 (ESV)***22For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,*

* A MIXED REACTION: MANY WILL BE INTERESTED, FEW WILL FOLLOW

**1 Corinthians 1:24-25 (ESV)** *24but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

* FOLLOWING JESUS DOES NOT REQUIRE LOGIC, IT REQUIRES FAITH…

**WHAT TO REMEMBER…**

* YOU ARE NOT THAT GREAT, BUT JESUS IS

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (ESV)** *26For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”*