**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***

* *What is the farthest place you have ever traveled to?*

***DIGGING DEEPER***

*1 Corinthians is a letter written by the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth. Acts 18 gives us insight into how the church started in Corinth, and what the political and religious environments were like at the time.*

* *Read Acts 18:1-18. Summarize what you read. What stuck out to you?*
* *Who does Paul meet in Corinth? What is unique about them? Why are they in Corinth? What does this imply about the cultural makeup of the city of Corinth?*
* *How did Paul begin his ministry in Corinth? How was he received?*
* *What do verses 7-8 tell us about the makeup of the early church? Who was included? What were the demographics of the church of Corinth?*
* *How long does Paul minister in Corinth? How was he encouraged to persevere in such a difficult situation?*
* *How were Jesus’ words to Paul in verses 9-10 fulfilled in verses 14-16?*
* *What is the outcome of Gallio’s response?* 
  + *Gallio’s ambivalence to the situation actually has quite an effect on the early church. Judaism was a recognized religion in the Roman empire and the Jews were not forced to worship Roman gods, but rather allowed to practice their own faith. Gallio’s assertion that Paul’s teachings fall within the scope of Judaism, actually legitimizes and provides protection for the early church to thrive in a foreign land. God advances his kingdom even through pagan officials.*

***DISCUSS***

* *When has the Lord given you confidence to stay in a situation even though it was difficult?*
* *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 8th**

**Day 126 –** Mark 10: Servant Leadership

**Day 127 –** Mark 11: Opposition Heats Up

**Day 128 –** Mark 12: Baiting Jesus

**Day 129 –** Mark 13: A Day to Dread

**Day 130 –** Mark 14: A Scent of Doom

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 1:1-17 ~ WELCOME TO CORINTH

Wave Church SD | April 8, 2018

**TWO MISTAKES WE MAKE WITH IDEALIZED FAITH**

* WE REJECT FAITH AND THE CHURCH
* WE BECOME ACCIDENTAL PHARISEES

**WELCOME TO CORINTH**

**1 Corinthians 1:1-3 (ESV)** *1* *Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, 2To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 CORINTHIANS MESSAGE TO US

CHRISTIANITY IS MESSY: MESSY PEOPLE, LIVING A MESSY FAITH, IN A MESSY WORLD

**1 Corinthians 1:4-9 (ESV)** *4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— 6even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— 7so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

A MESSED-UP CHURCH, IN A MESSED-UP CITY, CAN STILL BE BLESSED BY GOD

* FAITH IS A DICHOTOMY: WE LIVE AS SINNERS BLESSED WITH GRACE
  + GRACE = UNMERITED FAVOR

**1 Corinthians 1:10-12 (ESV)** *10I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. 11For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. 12What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.”*

* SUCCESS IN THE CHURCH IS MEASURED BY UNITY AND FAITHFULNESS NOT GREATNESS AND POPULARITY

**1 Corinthians 1:13-17 (ESV)** *13Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. 16(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.*

* UNITY IN THE CHURCH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR PERSONAL OPINION

**WHY IS UNITY SO IMPORTANT?**

* JESUS PRAYED FOR IT | JOHN 17:20-23
* JESUS COMMANDED IT | JOHN 13:34
* NON-CHRISTIANS CAN JUDGE US BY IT | JOHN 13:35

**WHAT DOES REAL UNITY IN A MESSY CHURCH LOOK LIKE?**

* IT GIVES UNMERITED GRACE
* IT HONORS GOD’S UNIQUE DESIGN OF EACH PERSON, CHURCH, AND MOVEMENT
* IT PLACES GREATER VALUE ON PEOPLE OVER PERSONAL PREFERENCES
* IT ACKNOWLEDGES WE ARE MESSY PEOPLE, LIVING OUT A MESSY FAITH, IN A MESSY WORLD