

Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | June 5, 2022

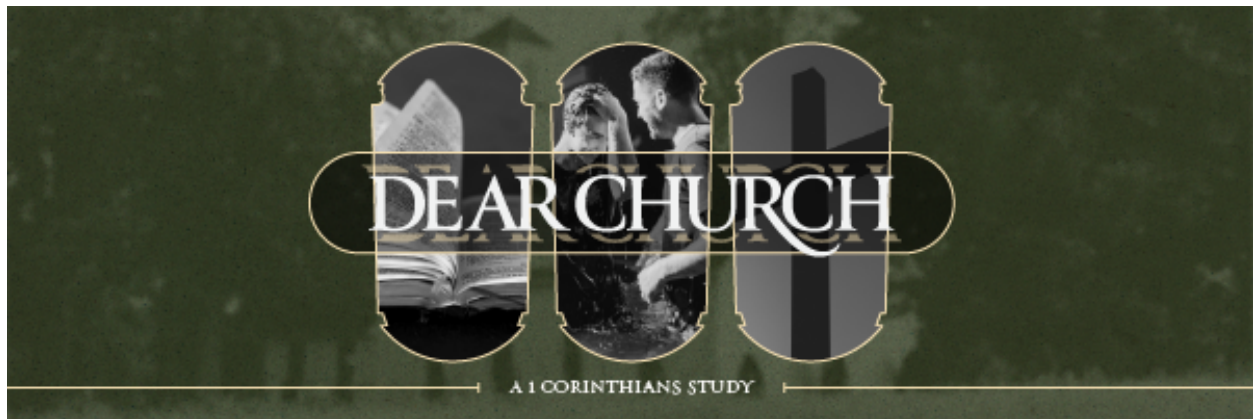
Begin with Scripture, silence, and prayer (5 minutes).

Read Psalm 25. As we start a new sermon series, we want to orient our hearts and minds to knowing and loving God. Use this Psalm to help you do just that as you begin your time together.

After you have finished reading, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together.

Read Scripture and debrief the sermon (45 minutes).

- How would you describe this weekend's sermon?
- What from this sermon resonated with you? What challenged you?
- Have different people in your group read aloud the following passages. After each person reads their passage, as a group, discuss what these passages tell you about who Saul/Paul is.
 - **Acts 8:1-3**
 - **Acts 9:1-31**
 - **Galatians 1:11-24**
 - **Philippians 3:4-14**
- What is something from the above passages about Paul's life and character that you'd like to see developed in yourself?
- In his sermon, Dan highlighted the fact that Paul waited 13 years before enacting the ministry given to him by God. Do you feel like God has a call on your life? If so, are you preparing for that call? Are you implementing that call? Or have you finished the call? Explain. If your answer is no, what would discerning God's call for your life look like?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 18:1-18.** What do you learn about Paul's ministry to the Corinthians from this passage?
- Just as God sovereignly placed Paul in Corinth, so too, has he placed us in our city at this time. How would a mindset of "God has placed me in this city for His purposes" change how you live?
- Are there any practical ways you'd like to be more intentional with your faith with people around you?
- Finally, in his sermon Dan mentioned how the Corinthians struggled with five different things: (1) How to live as a holy people in a pluralistic, idolatrous culture; (2) How to



prioritize unity during disagreements; (3) God’s wisdom for sexuality, gender roles, marriage, and healthy relationships; (4) The importance of using your spiritual gifts to build up the body; and (5) The centrality of Christ and the power of the gospel. In which of these areas do you think we especially need God’s wisdom today? Why?

- What is one main takeaway you have from this message?

Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone’s prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.