

Digging Deeper

**First & Second
CORINTHIANS**

STUDY GUIDE

This book contains daily devotional readings, a prayer journal and individual study plans designed to help quizzers get the most out of their Bible Quizzing experience.
A great companion to the *Digging Deeper Review Questions Book*.

Exclusively from
 **ACME**
QUIZ PRODUCTS

DIGGING DEEPER SERIES

STUDY GUIDE: 1ST & 2ND CORINTHIANS

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Committed To My Success

It is my desire to make this year in quizzing successful in every way: in competition, understanding of the Word, and a closer walk with God.

To achieve this, I commit myself to the following study plan:

_____ *(Study plan 1, 2, or 3; learn memory verses, memorize text, daily devotions, etc.)*

A Cloud of Witnesses:

As parent, I commit myself to actively support and encourage my teen's study of God's Word. I will do what I can to help with study at home and will attend at least one quiz meet this year.

signed _____ *Date* _____

As coach, I commit myself to be prepared for quiz practices and to foster an environment where quizzing and learning God's Word are enjoyable.

signed _____ *Date* _____

I realize that anything worthwhile takes effort. I commit myself to do my best to follow through on my study plan. I allow myself to be accountable to my parents, my coach, and to God. I am thankful that they love me and want me to succeed in this area of my life.

signed _____ *Date* _____

Overview Of The Digging Deeper System

The *Digging Deeper Series* of study aids was designed specifically for Teen Bible Quizzing. Using these tools will help you get the most out of quizzing – both in gaining knowledge, and in helping you put that new knowledge into practice (the ultimate goal of your study).

This Study Guide is the cornerstone of the *Digging Deeper* system. It includes daily devotionals, three levels of daily study plans, and a devotional journal. It is the foundation of an effective study plan and for helping you make a daily walk with our Lord Jesus a reality. In this book, you will be challenged to think about the Word, and then put your newfound insights into action.

The Review Questions book is an integral part of the *Digging Deeper* system. It includes all of the review questions needed to complete any of the three levels of study plans in this *Study Guide*. There are about 500 unique questions for each of the three levels and there are 1000 additional questions included as supplements. In total, the *Review Book* has about 2500 questions – plenty for a thorough coverage of the material.

The QuizMaster computer software has become the standard for effective question study and review. Like the *Review Questions* book, it too contains each of the questions from the *Study Guide's* three study plans, and a significant number more. In fact, it contains the largest collection of questions that we offer. Featuring many tools for question study, review, and printing, it is a wonderful tool for those who have a computer, and invaluable for helping the coach prepare study material for practices.

Help your quizzers learn their quotes and watch them soar. Our Quote System includes flashcards with the memory verse on one side and the reference on the other, an audio CD with each verse read aloud, and a booklet with study plans and techniques, prejump lists, progress chart, and more.

And finally, the Dramatized Audio CD will bring the text to life. Also tied to the daily study plans of the *Study Guide*, each character in the text is read by a different dramatic voice. The more senses you involve in the learning process, the better you learn; and being able to hear the Word dramatized is a big help in retaining the Scripture. This CD is especially useful for auditory learners and younger quizzers.

We pray that your study of God's Word this year will be a rewarding adventure, full of new insights and challenges, and that you will take the time to let God change you – not only your mind, but your heart as well.

May you grow in the knowledge and understanding of God's grace.

Your friends at ACME Quiz

Getting The Most Out Of Bible Quizzing

Often you will hear people say that “learning God’s Word and applying it to your life” is the most important goal of Bible Quizzing. But sometimes it is hard to see this goal being realized when so much emphasis is put on the competitive aspect of quizzing. This is not really anyone’s fault. Available study material has been mostly centered on learning questions (for example, question books, lists, concordances, etc.). And because practices are rarely long enough, it is hard to spend a lot of time digging into the Word.

The only way, really, to accomplish this goal of knowing God more fully through his Word is to spend time in personal devotion and prayer. And that is where this *Study Guide* comes in. As you follow the daily study plans to help you learn the material, you will also be reflecting on the Scripture in daily devotions. Each day’s devotional parallels the material that you are quizzing on, so it will be more relevant to you. If you are going to have a daily quiet time with God, doesn’t it make sense to base your devotions around the material you are quizzing on?

The devotionals have been designed to encourage reading, reflection, journaling, spiritual growth, and a strong heart of prayer. Let’s look at each of these disciplines in more detail:

Reading

Each day’s devotional has a brief story to lead you into thinking about Scripture and its application to your life. Just as Jesus often taught in parables, the short stories will make the Scripture relevant with insights from today’s world.

Reflect

Following the reading of the scripture passage and the introductory story, the devotionals encourage you to reflect and begin to think about how the Word can be relevant in your life.

Journal

Journaling is a wonderful way to help the Word take root. By putting your thoughts on paper, you will be able to chart your progress and growth. You will be challenged to dig deeper, seeking God’s direction for your life. Don’t skip over this activity in your devotions.

Grow

This is your opportunity to “DO”, and not just “LEARN”. James says, “Do not merely listen to the Word... do what it says.” In this part of the daily devotional, you will be challenged to do just that – take the seed planted in you and grow closer to God as you do his will and become what he created you to be.

Pray

Each devotional is summed up with a simple prayer. Make that prayer the cry of your heart. Tell God how much he means to you and seek his face. Then watch as his Spirit comes alive in you.

This year, take quizzing to a whole new level as you explore what God has in store for you!

Choosing Your Study Plan

Before you jump into studying, it is a good idea to take stock of your resources – to come up with a plan. This Study Guide includes three study plans suited for most skill levels. The one you choose will depend upon a number of factors: your skill and experience, your circumstances, your support system, and your desire. Let's look at these briefly by asking you some questions.

Skill and Experience: Do you know how to take a study plan and follow through with it? What kind of grades do you get in school? Have you ever quizzed before?

Circumstances and Available Time: Sometimes, but not always, older quizzers know how to make better use of their time. Do you have plenty of time to study? Do you have a job after school? Are you home-schooled? Quizzing takes time, and you want to take stock of the time that you have before you commit to any plan of study.

Support System: Think about your support system – your family and friends. Are they usually an encouragement, or a discouraging force? Will they help you reach your study goals, or will they drag you down? You want to be surrounded by people who will encourage you and are committed to your success.

Desire and Motivation: This is probably the most important factor in achieving success in quizzing. Are you self-motivated, or do you require someone to “push” you? Can you focus on a goal, or do you start things, but never finish them? Are you quizzing because you want to, or because your parents told you that you must... or because your friends are doing it?

The way you answer these questions should influence the decision you make about a plan of study. Let's look at the different study plans in this *Study Guide*:

Level 1 Study Plan (“Contributor”): By following this plan, you will be a consistent contributor to your team at quiz meets. You will gain a solid understanding of the material and should have a good idea of how to answer most questions. In addition to the time it takes to do your devotions, this plan is designed to take about 30 minutes a day.

Level 2 Study Plan (“Top-20” Quizzer): This plan is designed to help you finish in the Top-20 in your district. By following it, you will have a solid knowledge of the material and should be able to answer almost any question. If you add memory verses to this study plan, you should finish in the Top-10 in your district. Commitment is about 45 minutes a day.

Level 3 Study Plan (“National-level” Quizzer): This plan requires the greatest amount of daily study time, but will provide the greatest rewards. Following it should help make you a “national level” quizzer. You will want to supplement this plan with memory verses, or possibly memorization of the entire text. Commitment is about 60-90 minutes a day.

There is not any “best” plan, only the plan that is best for you. You may want to sit down with your coach to supplement your study plan with additional study activities. Room in the daily study plans has been left to write in these activities each day.

After you have chosen a plan, make sure that you fill out the “Committed To My Success” certificate on page 2 and have a parent and coach sign it. Then photocopy it and put it on your refrigerator to remind you of what great things are ahead as you learn God's Word this year.

Understanding The Daily Study Plans

All three of the daily study plans work the same way: each starts with a short devotional, and then lists specific steps to follow. To the left of each step is a check box () to check when you finish that step.

Careful thought has gone into providing a balance of new material and review of old material. By the time you finish your study plan, you will have gained a solid understanding of the material through systematic study and review. Let's look at a sample week's Level 3 plan for Chapter 7:

Sample Daily Plan	Explanation of what to do for each step of the study plan.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 6 (2x) <input type="checkbox"/> Read w/ reps 7:1-13 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: ALL 7:1-13 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 1. Study the daily devotional and see what God wants to teach you this day. To get an overview of the material, read chapter 7 twice, listening to the audio CD (if you have one). Then read again with repetition. Next, using <i>The QuizMaster</i> software, or a review questions book, study all of the Level 1, 2 and 3 questions for 7:1-13. Finally, if your coach gave you an additional study task, do that.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 7 (2x) <input type="checkbox"/> Read w/ reps 7:14-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: ALL 7:14-24 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 2. Start with your devotions, then read chapter 7 twice (again using your listening CD, if you have one). Then read with repetition 7:14-24. Use <i>The QuizMaster</i> to study all of the Level 1, 2, and 3 questions for 7:14-24. And finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 7 (2x) <input type="checkbox"/> Read w/ reps 7:25-53 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: ALL 7:25-53 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 3. Do devotions, read and listen to chapter 6 twice, read with repetition 7:25-53, and study ALL Level 1, 2 and 3 questions from 7:25-53. Finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 1-4 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: 40 from ch 1-4 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 4. Do devotions, read and listen to chapters 1-4, and then review 40 questions from chapters 1-4 using the QuizMaster software or a review question book. (Note that the first part of each week covers new material, then you review older material the last few days.) Finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 5-7 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: 40 from ch 5-7 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 5. Do devotions, read and listen to chapters 5-7, then review 40 questions from chapters 5-7. Finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.

As you get into the year, you will notice that each week's study plan has a good balance of new and old material. Review is critical if you are going to learn the material well.

Study questions to complete the daily study plans can be found in one of two sources: *The QuizMaster* computer software or the *Digging Deeper Review Questions* book. Both are available from ACME.

Level 2 uses questions marked with a ① or a ② in the *Review Questions* book, or the Level 2 collection in *The QuizMaster*. Level 3 study sessions require questions marked with a ①, ②, or ③, or the Level 3 collection in *The QuizMaster*.

Additionally, Level 3 plans often suggest "Reading with reps". Repetition reading is a method of study where you read one verse, then read that verse and the next, then 1-3, 1-4, and 1-5. After five verses, you start a new pattern 6, 6-7, 6-8, 6-9, and then 6-10. After the second group, Reread 1-10. Then start the next group: 11, 11-12, 11-13, 11-14, 11-15 and then 1-15. Continue in groups of 5 until you have covered all the material. Note: this is only one reading method; you should work with your coach to pick a method that is best for you.

Finally, don't worry if you miss a day. These study plans were designed for five days of study each week, so if you miss a day, you can easily make it up on another day. Just do your best to follow the plan, keeping your practices short, and not combining them. What you learn will stick with you much better if you develop this consistency.

DAILY DEVOTIONS & STUDY PLANS

Level 1 Plan

Day 1

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1
- Qs: ALL 1:1-17 ❶
- _____

Day 2

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1
- Qs: ALL 1:18-31 ❶
- _____

Day 3

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1
- Qs: ALL from ch 1 ❶
- _____

Day 4

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1
- Qs: ALL from ch 1 ❶
- _____

Day 5

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1
- Qs: ALL from ch 1 ❶
- _____

Level 2 Plan

Day 1

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Qs: ALL 1:1-9 ❶❷
- _____

Day 2

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Qs: ALL 1:10-17 ❶❷
- _____

Day 3

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Qs: All 1:18-31 ❶❷
- _____

Day 4

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Write 10 Qs from ch 1
- Qs: 25 from ch 1 ❶❷
- _____

Day 5

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Qs: ALL from ch 1 ❶❷
- _____

1 Corinthians 1: God's Foolishness

"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (v. 9) — NIV

Day 1: Called Unto Holiness

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

As we open our study of Corinthians, notice that Paul almost immediately gets to the point of why he's writing. After a brief description of himself as author of the letter, he describes the recipients (the Corinthians) as those who were sanctified in Christ and called to be holy (see verse 2).

As we pour through the pages of Corinthians this year, we will notice that the church is facing many problems, including division, immorality, idolatry, and bickering, just to name a few. They have strayed from the heart of who they really are. So right here in the greeting, Paul reminds them who they are and WHOSE they are: they are sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy. Everything that follows flows from the heart of one who longs to see them return to that calling to follow God's holy path.

As you begin your own journey through this year of Quizzing, take stock of your spiritual life. Allow God to use his Word this year to steer you onto the path he has chosen for you. Be open to his leading as he gently points out areas where you might need to repent and return to (or begin on!) the path of holiness. May this year's journey be about more than just Quiz scores and fellowship. May you truly experience God in a new and deep way as you study his Word this year!

Reflect Can you think of an area of your life where you have possibly strayed from God's path of holiness? (Some more common areas might be language, TV or computer habits, friends, daily devotion time, prayer life, etc. Allow the Spirit to reveal your own personal areas of weakness or struggle.)

Journal What are your expectations for this Quizzing year? A good way to keep yourself on track is to journal some goals for the year. Perhaps you might want to come up with a personal achievement goal as well as a spiritual goal to strive toward.

Grow Try to begin each day with a prayer and devotion time. There is no right or wrong length. Remain open to his guidance as you study his Word.

Pray *"Father God, I thank you for the privilege of studying your Word through Quizzing this year. Please speak to me and help me to grow in my relationship with you. Amen."*

Day 2: God is Faithful

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

There is a wonderful verse tucked into today's reading. Read verse 9 again. Kind of to-the-point, isn't it? God is faithful! What a promise! This is kind of the springboard for the rest of the letter – no matter what the Corinthians are facing, or how many problems need fixing, God is faithful! What can they not accomplish with the faithful God of the universe on their side?

Here's the best news: that same God is STILL faithful. There is not one time in history where he has NOT been faithful. If you read the Bible from cover to cover, you will find it to be a story of a faithful God. Example after example is given of his faithfulness.

So what about you? Is there something in your life that you feel is impossible for God to handle faithfully? Do you see a record of his faithfulness in your life, or do you tend to focus on all the things that haven't gone your way and see them as a sign of his unfaithfulness? Take heart today. On the authority of Scripture you can rest assured: if you serve the Lord, you serve a faithful God!

Reflect Take some time to really reflect on God's faithfulness in your own personal spiritual journey.

Journal If you are a person who has a hard time remembering God's faithfulness to you personally, your journal can be a wonderful tool. In a special section, write down answered prayer, lessons he's taught you, and acts of his faithfulness. Then when you hit a time of struggle, reading that section will be like a personal hug from God meant just for you!

Grow Write 1 Corinthians 1:9 on an index card and place it somewhere that you will see daily. Each time you see it, thank God for his faithfulness!

Pray *"Lord, you are so faithful. Thank you for your perfect record of faithfulness. I long to be faithful to you as well. Guide me by your Spirit to do your will. Amen."*

Day 3: United or Divided

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Walk into almost any church today and you'll experience divisions. Everyone has their own opinion of how things should work – and everyone thinks THEIR way is THE way. Just from the sheer number of different denominations that there are, you could translate this passage, "I follow Calvin." "I follow Luther." "I follow Wesley." An even more modern translation might sound like this: "I follow praise choruses." "I follow hymns." "I follow the King James Version." "I follow the NIV."

Paul points out in today's passage that it is important for our faith to be modeled after only one: Jesus. He gave the example for us to follow. And his ultimate goal for his church is that we be united in him.

Reflect Think about your church and the biblical example of Christ. Do they match up?

Journal What mindset toward worship and Christianity have you adopted that isn't from the Bible? Does God want you to open your mind more in some area? Write it in your journal.

Grow Look for ways to put into practice specific attributes of Christ – our perfect example.

Pray "Father God, forgive my judgmental spirit and closed-mindedness toward the workings of your church. Help me to see you at work in unique ways. Amen."

Day 4: You're Nuts

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Jennifer was frustrated. She had invited her friend Cindy to church with her and was so excited for the possibilities of what this could mean for Cindy's life. However, after church, Cindy had almost ridiculed Jennifer for her faith. "You really believe what that guy said in there? That's just crazy! A man coming back to life? Someone being willing to die like that for bad stuff that others did? Oh, and me living forever because of it? It just doesn't make any sense."

Has this ever happened to you? Maybe you haven't even tried witnessing because you're afraid of this reaction. However, Paul lets us know that this is normal! For those who don't believe, the message of the cross is foolishness! But he goes on to say that God uses that foolish message to save those who believe.

Don't give up on your friends. The Bible tells us that God wants EVERYONE to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Remember, at one time, the message of the cross was foolishness to you, too. You were once perishing before you accepted God's gift of salvation. Now share the message of that gift with others!

Reflect Do you remember what life was like before you accepted the gift of salvation? If you do, can you recall a time when this whole thing seemed foolish to you?

Journal Write a prayer thanking God for saving you through such extraordinary means! If you have friends who are currently struggling with the message of the cross, write their names in the margin and pray for their eyes to be opened.

Grow *Think of one friend you can witness to this week. Your efforts are not in vain, even if your friend thinks you're nuts!*

Pray "God, thank you for the gift of salvation. Thank you for saving the world in such a seemingly foolish way. It shows the depth of your wisdom and love for me! Help me not to shy away from sharing the Good News with others. Amen."

Day 5: That's Foolishness!

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Abraham was old, and Sarah lacked faith. Yet God chose them to be the parents "of many nations." Joseph was hated by his brothers and later became a slave and a prisoner. Yet God used him to save a nation. Moses had a speech impediment. Rahab was a prostitute. David was an adulterer and murderer. Isaiah was a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips. Jeremiah was a mere child. Daniel was an outsider. Hosea married an adulterous wife. Amos was a lowly shepherd. Jonah was disobedient and fearful. John the Baptist was a desert wanderer. Mary was a young virgin. Thomas doubted. Peter had a fiery temper. Paul was a persecutor of the church.

What "fool" would pick these (and countless others like them) to be heroes of our faith? Some of the mightiest works of God were accomplished through these seemingly less-than-ideal candidates. But where the world sees foolishness, God sees potential. So what can he do through you?

Reflect What is your biggest weakness?

Journal Do you find yourself thinking God could never use you? Why? Write about it.

Grow Pick one of the heroes mentioned today and look up their story in the Bible.

Pray "Lord, thank you that you don't expect us to be the biggest and the brightest. Use ME for your glory today. Amen."

Level 3 Plan

- Day 1**
- Daily devotions
 - Read / listen to ch 1 (2x)
 - Read w/ reps ch 1:1-9
 - Qs: ALL 1:1-9 1 2 3
 - _____

- Day 2**
- Daily devotions
 - Read / listen to ch 1 (2x)
 - Read w/ reps ch 1:10-17
 - Qs: ALL 1:10-17 1 2 3
 - _____

- Day 3**
- Daily devotions
 - Read / listen to ch 1 (2x)
 - Read w/ reps ch 1:18-31
 - Qs: ALL 1:18-31 1 2 3
 - _____

- Day 4**
- Daily devotions
 - Read / listen to ch 1 (2x)
 - Write 10 Qs from ch 1
 - Qs: ALL from ch 1 1 2 3
 - _____

- Day 5**
- Daily devotions
 - Read / listen: ch 1 (2x)
 - Qs: ALL from ch 1 1 2 3
 - _____

Level 1 Plan

Day 1

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2-3
- Qs: ALL from ch. 2 ①
- _____

Day 2

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2-3
- Qs: ALL from ch. 2 ①
- _____

Day 3

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2-3
- Qs: ALL from ch. 3 ①
- _____

Day 4

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2-3
- Qs: ALL from ch. 3 ①
- _____

Day 5

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2-3
- Qs: 50 from ch 1-3 ①
- _____

Level 2 Plan

Day 1

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2-3 (2x)
- Qs: ALL from ch 2 ①②
- _____

Day 2

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2-3 (2x)
- Qs: ALL from ch 2 ①②
- _____

Day 3

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2-3 (2x)
- Qs: ALL from ch 3 ①②
- _____

Day 4

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2-3 (2x)
- Write 10 Qs from ch 2-3
- Qs: 50 from ch 2-3 ①②
- _____

Day 5

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2-3 (2x)
- Qs: 75 from ch 1-3 ①②
- _____

1 Corinthians 2 & 3: A Beautiful Mind

"But we have the mind of Christ" (2:16b) — ESV

Day 1: I May Not Have All the Answers, But...

Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-10

How was the world created? When does life begin? Why is there so much evil in the world? Why am I here? What value does my life have? Is there anything after death? My life stinks – isn't there anything better?

As a teen, you have likely asked some of these questions at one time or another, and undoubtedly your friends are asking them as well. Many of your friends are hurting inside, seeking for some meaning to their life, but not finding it – feeling lost and without hope.

But as Christians, we have the hope of Christ, and a deep, penetrating peace that others don't have. We can't explain it perhaps, but we just know what we have. Don't be discouraged if you can't answer all of life's most difficult questions with eloquence, or some supernatural wisdom. Your friends will see in you something different, especially if you come to your friends the way Paul did, with love and humility.

Reflect Think about the story of the Good Samaritan. A man was beaten by robbers, then a priest, Levite, and Samaritan passed by. The wise priest and important Levite were too busy, but the lowly Samaritan had compassion and met the man's needs. Who do you think the beaten man will turn to when it comes time to answer life's difficult questions?

Journal Write down the name of a friend that you know is searching for answers, and list some ways that you can reach out to him or her in love.

Grow Commit to praying for your friend daily, and ask God to give you opportunities to reach out to them.

Pray *"Father, I may not have all the answers, but I know whose I am. Thank you for adopting me into your family. Please help me to enlarge your Kingdom by bringing others to you. Amen."*

Day 2: Overlooked

Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

Beth didn't know what she found in the garbage out by the street that cold March morning. "Why am I taking this back to my apartment?" she thought. Her crammed apartment hardly had room for a huge abstract painting thrown away in the garbage. "But I like it, even though it is trash."

Imagine Beth's surprise to later learn that her find was actually a painting by the Mexican artist Rufina Tamayo, and was now valued at \$1 million! Stolen 20 years ago from a couple in Texas, this painting had somehow made its way into the trash on the streets of New York, waiting for Beth to find that day.

Sometimes, we don't fully understand what we have found as Christians. We have this priceless gift of Christ, and adoption into his family, but like Beth, we don't know the value of what we have. Maybe we should think more about God's gift and how beautiful it is.

Reflect Sometimes we value things by comparing them to what we would have to give up to get them. If you had to, what would you give up to be a part of God's family?

Journal Jot down some things about being a Christian that you have taken for granted and not fully appreciated.

Grow In our reading, we learned that the Spirit helps us understand what God has freely given us. Ask the Spirit to help you come to more fully appreciate your treasure and see its beauty in light of its value.

Pray *"Holy Spirit, please help me to more fully comprehend the value of the Father's priceless gift. Amen."*

Day 3: Follow the Leader

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

We're all familiar with the game "Follow the Leader." One person is "the Leader" and everyone else follows his instruction. When the leader says "Put your finger on your nose," it is everyone's job to put their finger on their nose. When the leader says, stand on one foot, we all act like flamingos and stand precariously on one foot.

But what would happen if another person decided that he wanted to bark out instructions as well? Or maybe a third person wanted to join them. Pretty soon you would have chaos as one leader said "stand on your left foot" while the other said "stand on your right foot." Yikes! That might hurt!

In the church, bad things happen when we take our eyes off Christ – our one true leader – and begin to follow men. This often leads to quarreling, jealousy, rivalries, and division. So when one says, "I follow Apollos" or another

"I follow Paul," remember that we are really followers and servants of the one Lord, Jesus Christ.

- Reflect** Can you think of a time when you found yourself following men, rather than Christ?
- Journal** God desires a servant heart, especially in leadership. In your journal, make a list of areas that you feel God has gifted you in, then note whether you are using each gift to its fullest (in service, rather than flaunting your gift.)
- Grow** Church is not a popularity contest. You will recognize a true leader by how well he serves. Are you a true leader?
- Pray** "Lord, help me to learn to serve the way you served. Help me love the way you loved. And help me to use the talents you have given me to lead others to know you better."

Day 4: Beyond the Foundation

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

While the foundation of a building might be the most important part, it would be ridiculous to think it is the ONLY important part. What you build upon that foundation is an important part of the overall building as well. For instance, a concrete foundation is a nice, solid way to build a house, but if you build the house itself out of straw, the concrete foundation isn't going to matter much in a windstorm. What a waste of a concrete foundation!

In the same way, it is obviously important that our foundation be Jesus Christ. However, what we build on that foundation of Christ is also important. Do we structure our entire church around musical worship of Christ? Christ is still the foundation, but all of our resources are going to buying bigger and better equipment for the music portion of our services, while we have zero outreach as a church. Is that why the church exists? What if as an individual I spend my entire life doing nothing but reading the Bible? My foundation is Christ and my desire is to know him more, but I'm not being a very effective Christian by never putting what I read into practice.

The point is, we all - individually and corporately in our churches - have a chance to build on the foundation of Christ for the good of the Kingdom. What are you adding to the building? Is it worthy of His name?

- Reflect** There are a lot of things that we can build our life on: popularity, acceptance, wealth and fortune, knowledge, beauty and more. Are you building on the foundation of Christ?
- Journal** In what areas of your life are you contributing to the overall Kingdom of God by building on the foundation laid by those before you? Journal your thoughts.
- Grow** Our values and motives will one day be tested. When that day of testing comes, will you find that your house stands strong?
- Pray** "Lord, I obviously don't want to be the foolish man who builds his house upon the sand. I want the rock-solid foundation of Christ. However, I also don't want to waste that foundation by building an unworthy structure on it. Guide my decisions each day as I contribute to your eternal Kingdom. Amen."

Day 5: God's Temple

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Corinth was a bustling commerce center and one of the most important cities of Greece. Having two harbors, it was a major trading center and crossroads for shipping products between Spain and Italy in the west and Asia Minor, Phoenicia and Egypt in the east. The city boasted a population of about 250,000 free persons and 400,000 slaves.

During Paul's time, there were as many as twelve temples in Corinth. One of the more notorious was the temple to the goddess Aphrodite (the goddess of love), whose worshippers practiced ritualistic prostitution. As many as one thousand prostitutes served at her temple, offering their bodies in the name of religion.

Is it any wonder, then, that Paul reminds the Corinthians that our bodies are God's sacred temple, and that his Spirit lives in us? We ought not only honor God with our praise, but with our bodies as well.

- Reflect** Remember the time Jesus went into his Father's temple and cast out the money changers and sellers of doves? They were misusing God's temple. If your body is God's temple, do you use it in a way that honors him?
- Journal** Record in your journal any ways that you dishonor God with your body. This might be destructive acts that hurt the body, sexual disobedience, provocative dress, or even overeating. Let the Spirit guide your thoughts as you consider how you use God's temple.
- Grow** Take a few minutes to commit verse 16 to memory. The Spirit will use this in your life to help you make right decisions about God's temple.
- Pray** "Father, I confess that I have misused your temple. I never really thought of my body as your temple. But when you saved me, you took possession of me and have taken up residence in my heart. I want to honor you in everything I do, and that includes how I use my body. Amen."

Level 3 Plan

- Day 1**
- Daily devotions
 - Read / listen to ch 2-3 (2x)
 - Read w/ reps ch 2
 - Qs: ALL ch 2 1000
 - _____

- Day 2**
- Daily devotions
 - Read / listen to ch 2-3 (2x)
 - Read w/ reps 3:1-9
 - Qs: ALL 3:1-15 1000
 - _____

- Day 3**
- Daily devotions
 - Read / listen to ch 2-3 (2x)
 - Read w/ reps 3:10-23
 - Qs: ALL 3:16-23 1000
 - _____

- Day 4**
- Daily devotions
 - Read / listen to ch 2-3 (2x)
 - Write 10 Qs from ch 2-3
 - Qs: 75 from ch 2-3 1000
 - _____

- Day 5**
- Daily devotions
 - Read / listen to ch 2-3 (2x)
 - Qs: 100 from ch 1-3 1000
 - _____

