

# 1 CORINTHIANS

*Messy Church*  
MERCIFUL GOD

## PARENT GUIDE



daily devos

RADIATE STUDENTS

Dear Parents,

We are excited about round two of customizable discipleship content! The purpose of this material is to equip YOU to walk alongside your student in their discipleship journey. Whether you have decided to come back on BHBC's campus or not, we are praying that you step up as the spiritual leader in your home to model for them Bible reading and prayer, and to go deeper in what they are learning on their own.

Here's how it works: Every two weeks, we will drop some online content on [www.bhradiate.com](http://www.bhradiate.com) on the student page on Monday morning. The parent page will have a PDF like this one that is a supplemental resource. You are welcome to read along in your own time with the Lord what the students are reading,

- Read: Bible reading for the day
- Reflect: a breakdown of biblical principles from the passage
- Respond: challenging questions to think through
- Real Life: action steps or mission moments to live it out

During this two-week series, your student has the opportunity to read all of 1 Corinthians. It's unfortunate that time doesn't allow us to specifically discuss each verse or section, because God's word is so rich. There will be some passages we "skip" talking about in Daily Devos that your student may have questions about - be open to their questions! And if you need further support, let's chat.

Gather your family and go deeper together-whether it's around the dinner table or during carpool or in the stands at a younger sibling's practice--make the most of those times together. You will want to read ahead though! Because in the Respond section, we ask that you answer these questions for yourself first. You can talk through both your answers and your student's answers.

And it's customizable, meaning you can pick however many times a week you plan to do this with your family and let it mold to your own family time with the Lord. You can also pick which days you want to talk through if you don't plan to do all 14 but you think the content from one day is more relevant than another. Just go back when you know your student has read it!

On the days that your student may not have read or seems quiet about opening up around the table, that's ok! Here are some conversation starters that may be helpful to engage your student in a spiritual conversation:

- What stood out to you the most about today's content?
- What's one thing you're going to do after reading today's content?
- Is there anything you want to talk about?
- How can we pray for you today?
- How can we help someone in need today?
- What questions do you have for me?
- How do you feel like today's content relates to your life?

We are here for you, Parents, and want to be a sounding board for any questions or concerns you may have. We are also interested in your feedback so that we can continue to improve this resource for you and your family's needs. But know that we are behind you and praying for you as you disciple your students.

The RADIATE Staff

# Week 1 | Day 1

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 1, **Today's Spotlight:** Acts 18:1-11

## **REFLECT:**

Welcome to Day 1! We began our journey through 1 Corinthians in the book of Acts. Why? Acts is a brief book of history that tells us about the start and spread of the Christian church. At the start of the book, Jesus just rose from the dead, then he tells his disciples to “be my witnesses” in the surrounding areas and ultimately the world (Acts 1:8).

In Acts 18, we find out that Paul was a missionary, absolutely sold-out for Jesus, taking the gospel to people all over Asia and Europe. He stayed with other Christians, worked a job to support himself, and tirelessly spent the rest of his time telling the Corinthians about Jesus for eighteen months. After he left them they started a written correspondence.

Quick Facts about Corinth (relevant to our devos):

- Corinth was a port city in Greece
- It was a small land bridge between Italy and Asia
- They were worldly, rich, and modern
- Known for heavy alcohol use and sexual immorality
- Corinth hosted the Isthmian Games (the original Olympics)
- Their thinking was heavily influenced by false religions

As you can see from today's reading, the gospel was spreading fast. This was all going on in the middle of an immoral town where worldly, temporary pleasures were king. Make lots of money. Do whatever feels good. Look the part. This is what the Corinthian culture was telling its citizens every single day.

## **RESPOND:**

Write down some messages culture tells you about yourself. Do these messages line up with what God says? What might it look like for you to follow God's messages instead?

## **REAL LIFE:**

Does your student struggle with confidence? Tell them what you appreciate about them. Encourage them with what God says, not what the world says. Look up verses together about how valuable God made them. If your student does not struggle with confidence, talk with them about how they can encourage others to be.

# Week 1 | Day 2

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 2, **Today's Spotlight:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-12

## **REFLECT:**

Today's focus was this word "quarrels" or "rivalry", which is pretty straightforward in English. They mean "fighting". But the word in the original language describes a readiness to quarrel.

This describes someone always ready to pick a fight, always on the defense, always twisting your words. And it's easy to point the finger and say, oh I know a person like this. But be honest. Are you at all like this? Let God do some work in your heart alongside your student and receive these Daily Devos for yourself too!

*Ephesians 4:1-3 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

We will see over and over again in this series that the church at Corinth had some issues. Honestly, the letter may seem a little scatterbrained at times, jumping from one subject to another. Here's why: this letter was written to address the quarrels.

## **RESPOND:**

What are some ways the church disagrees? How are you part of making peace? Do non-Christians see your Christian friends as a united front? What do you think it looks like when the world outside of the church sees the people inside the church constantly fighting?

## **REAL LIFE:**

Your student was challenged today about praying for gentleness and patience the next time they disagree with someone. Think back on a time that you lost your temper or were not gentle with your words toward your student. Apologize to them. Don't make excuses. Talk to them about how you're sorry.

# Week 1 | Day 3

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 3, **Today's Spotlight:** 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

**REFLECT:**

The title of this series is Messy Church, Merciful God. The people already sent Paul the questions; we hold in our hands his reply. In the middle of the mess, God is merciful to these people. He doesn't want them to be confused (1 Cor 14:33). That's why Paul said, "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor 2:2). We can always set our focus on Jesus; we can always circle back to his salvation.

We are to have the mind of Christ, so what does that mean? It does not mean that Jesus is your genie – ok, God, I need your help on this math problem really quick, give me your mind! No – Paul says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition." Humility. That is who we should be, the mindset we should have. You have Christ, here was his mindset, make that your mindset too.

*Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. – Rick Warren*

Being a humble person means simply thinking more about other people than you do about yourself. It's not about thinking you're scum. In other words, selfishness is arrogance and pride. It also looks like self-loathing and self-centered insecurity. Because at the center of both sides of the same coin is the Self.

**RESPOND:**

Does your selfishness look more like arrogance or self-loathing? Spend some time talking to God about how you can think of others more than yourself.

**REAL LIFE:**

Today, if the conversation is lacking, it's ok! Ask some of the "general" table talk questions off the parent page. For example, "How can we help you feel appreciated in our family?"

# Week 1 | Day 4

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 4, **Today's Spotlight:** 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

## **REFLECT:**

We started by asking your student what their favorite meal is. Ask them what they wrote! Paul is drawing a comparison between “spiritual people” and the physical person. He’s saying the Corinthians are still acting like babies in the faith, and he wants them to move on to solid food. A baby isn’t eating steak, and a grown man isn’t drinking baby formula. It’s not natural. It doesn’t make sense for a Christian to be able to mature just drinking “milk”. The problem was that the Corinthians weren’t ready; they didn’t have the basics down!

When a baby starts eating food, you will introduce a little at a time and work up to a solid meal eventually. The milk is good, there’s a time and place for that. But eventually, we are to start “introducing” more and more depth and complexity to our spiritual pallet. We get to enjoy the depths of the gospel!

**Milk Examples:** Praying before meals and bed only, Reading the Bible once in a while, Attending church on occasion

**Solid Food Examples:** Memorizing Scripture, Doing a consistent devotion, Studying the Bible (not just reading passages), Sharing the Gospel, Learning the history of God’s Word, Consistently praying for people, Encouraging others, Committing to a Bible study or accountability group, Reading the Daily Devos passages, Asking Questions

It is time to take a step toward steak (keyword: step). A one year old doesn’t go from milk to a five-course dinner overnight. Start right where you are with the basics of Bible reading and prayer.

## **RESPOND:**

Read 1 Corinthians 13:11. How can you take off the training wheels? What is one thing you can incorporate to your private worship to go deeper?

## **REAL LIFE:**

RADIATE has always offered Bible studies, and this year is no different. In person and Zoom options are available. And parents, do you have a place in your life where you are being fed in Christian community? Model the importance for your student by joining something yourself, even if it’s just consistently checking in with Christian friends. Visit [www.bhradiate.com/small-groups/](http://www.bhradiate.com/small-groups/) to help your student plug into a small group.

# Week 1 | Day 5

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 5, **Today's Spotlight:** 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20

## **REFLECT:**

The idea that the Holy Spirit dwells in your body is the easiest way to identify with God's closeness and influence. The Holy Spirit should be the closest and most influential thing in your life. The amazing thing is, when you understand that, you'll want to treat your body better. So you don't start with "Your body is a temple, so have more self-confidence." You start with, "The Holy Spirit of God chose to be close to you, so let him influence your decisions, including how you treat your body and see yourself."

In the Old Testament, the Temple was the dwelling place of God. In chapter three, Paul is talking about building foundations for spiritual maturity; and in that context says, really your body is the building...you don't have to go to the temple to meet with God. My body is not God, but it is made holy (AKA set apart) because of God.

Honor God with your Body because you've been bought with a price...that price was Jesus's death on a cross. If you look to your own health, body, and temporary pleasures for meaning, you'll never be satisfied. Yes, you should take care of your body. But do it for God, not yourself.

## **RESPOND:**

Examples of Honoring God with your Body: Use your body to hike mountains to tell people in remote villages about Jesus. Use your body to hone your singing/instrument playing skills in worship. Use your body to be the best athlete that you can be while telling your teammates about Who you perform for. Use your body to discipline your mind to be the smartest at whatever you study. Now your turn: Use your body to... \_\_\_\_\_

## **REAL LIFE:**

Have a conversation about how to incorporate healthy habits in your home. We told your student today. Eat well, exercise, and drink water. Talk with them about a healthy body perspective. If this is something you struggle with, be honest with them and talk about that.

# Week 1 | Day 6

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 6, **Today's Spotlight:** 1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23

## **REFLECT:**

“All things are lawful” was a common phrase at the time. The Corinthians were using it to get away with whatever they wanted. “Not all things are beneficial” means that even things that no one actually said are wrong, may be wrong. Even if you’re not told “no”, it’s not an automatic yes. Why? Those things don’t always build you up and make you closer to God.

The fact is, there just are gray areas in life. There is technically not a Bible verse about copying someone’s vocab homework. There is technically not a Bible verse about watching an R-rated movie. (But the Bible has more to say about real-life stuff than you may think; just start by reading Proverbs or Googling “Bible verse about...” You may be surprised about things you don’t realize are actually in Scripture. That’s why it’s so amazing – you really could study it forever and not get bored.)

We are not under the law (Romans 6:14). We are saved by grace through faith, not works (Ephesians 2:8-9). God freely forgives (Colossians 3:13). If we confess our sin, he will forgive us (1 John 1:9). He removes our sin from us. BEWARE! At this point, if the conclusion is, ok I’ll go ahead and do this thing that I don’t feel right about, we are using Scripture as a free license to do wrong (1 Peter 2:16). And Paul says in Romans that we shouldn’t sin just so that we can get grace (Romans 6:15). Don’t manipulate the Bible.

## **RESPOND:**

### **Checklist for Godly Decision Making:**

Does the Bible have anything to say about this subject?

Have I prayed about it?

Would I want someone to treat me this way?

Is this something that could potentially become a bad habit?

Does it negatively affect someone else?

If \_\_\_\_\_ found out, would I be proud or embarrassed for them to follow my example?

Does it hurt my witness?

Will it honor God?

Will it bring me closer to him?

## **REAL LIFE:**

We challenged your student to share the gospel with a friend. When is the last time you did that? Talk to your student about your evangelism habits, whether it happens often or rarely. They need to hear from you about your wins and struggles on this topic. Challenge your student that you will BOTH talk to someone about Jesus this week.



# Week 1 | Day 7

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 7, **Today's Spotlight:** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

## **REFLECT:**

Look. We get it. Your student is most likely not thinking about marriage on a consistent basis. We understand that from 6th through 12th grade there is an incredibly wide spectrum when it comes to this subject, so we want to be sensitive to that. But it's not too early to talk about it!

Godly marriage involves a man and woman committed to God first and then each other second. Paul talks about marriage in the context of commitment to God.

What's cool is that Paul says it's a good thing to be single. You might think he's dogging on married people, but that's not true. Not many people can be AMAZING at three sports, photography, grades, staying healthy, keeping up with friends, AND a part-time job. I'm sure someone reading this can do it, but it's hard for the average person. There is only so much of you to go around.

Focus on that phrase, "your undivided devotion to the Lord". At the end of the day, your student is not married. They may remain unmarried for two more years, twenty more years, or the rest of their life. And guess what - God is good no matter what. The earlier they realize that being unmarried is a gift, the better; and if they do get the blessing of a godly marriage, that will be a gift too. For now, we encouraged them to enjoy the minimal distractions, because they will only compound the older you get.

## **RESPOND:**

What would it look like for you to start praying for your future spouse?

## **REAL LIFE:**

Ask your students: How has culture shaped your view of marriage/being single? How can a biblical view of marriage help you to be single well?

Show them that Christ is their best life now and always. Our purpose as a Christian, whether married or single, is to pursue, love, and obey God.

# Week 2 | Day 1

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 8 **Today's Spotlight:** 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

## **REFLECT:**

What did Paul say in verse 22? "I have become \_\_\_\_\_ things to \_\_\_\_\_ people, that by \_\_\_\_\_ means I might save some."

Is Paul saying he would literally convert to Judaism in order to win a Jew to Jesus? Is he saying he would voluntarily become enslaved in order to share the gospel with a slave? Because if so, there are some crazy implications that we can take from that. Suddenly I get to do whatever I want, because wherever I go there will be people there that need Jesus. We just got done saying that if you're on the fence about something maybe being wrong, don't do it. Of course it's not the case that you should become a drunk to reach the party crowd. You probably know what we're about to say...Context is Key!

"What makes more sense in the context here is that "the weak" refers to those Christians who cannot bring themselves to eat meat offered to idols (1 Corinthians 8:4-7). Such persons suffer unnecessary restrictions because their faith in God's grace and confidence that idols are imaginary is underdeveloped (1 Corinthians 8:8-11). Taken this way, it means Paul has opted out of eating such meat in order to win the weak. He not only saves them from sinfully violating their own convictions, he avoids offending them or giving them cause for spiritual confusion (1 Corinthians 8:12-13). He cooperates with their restrictive behaviors, to avoid placing any unnecessary barriers in their path." - From [Bibleref.com](http://Bibleref.com)

If you, as a mature Christian, can do something within reason and within the limits of godly living as laid out in Scripture, that would help someone come to faith in Jesus, consider it. Here's basically what Paul did in personal terms: If you feel called to share the gospel to a friend that doesn't eat meat, give up eating meat for a time, so that they don't lose respect for you and you can gain some credibility in order to share Jesus.

But remember, the kicker here is maintaining your godly values and closeness with Jesus. This is not a free pass to do whatever.

## **RESPOND:**

Verse sixteen in the New Living Translation says, "Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn't preach the Good News!" Jeremiah 20:9 says, "But if I say I'll never mention the LORD or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am worn out trying to hold it in! I can't do it!" On a scale of 1-10, 1 being not-so-much, 10 being on-fire, how passionate are you about the Lord and talking about his word?  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

## **REAL LIFE:**

Ask your students: How has culture shaped your view of marriage/being single? How can a biblical view of marriage help you to be single well? Show them that Christ is their best life now and always. Our purpose as a Christian, whether married or single, is to pursue, love, and obey God.

# Week 2 | Day 2

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 9

**REFLECT:**

When you hear the word “discipline”, you may think of consequences. This word in the original language involves beating his body, handling it roughly, and bringing it under submission. Yikes.

The tension of freedom and discipline: the Messy church is “aimlessly beating the air”. Paul comes in announcing a Merciful God who says you are free within some loving boundaries. Winning a race takes purpose, hard work, preparation, self-denial. And the same is true about the Christian life.

Remember the Quick Facts about Corinth on Day One? It mentions the Isthmian games, an original version of the Olympics that Corinth hosted every two years. They would have been familiar with athletic language and winning a physical tournament. He is saying we should have the same attitude toward our spiritual growth. No, this does not mean work as hard as you can to get to salvation, because remember this is for Christians. It’s about understanding that the Christian life will require some effort to go deeper.

Spiritual Disciplines are...habits that are practiced with the intention of growing your spiritual faith and getting closer to Jesus; actions done solely for the purpose of growing in the likeness of Jesus; they are taught in Scripture and often modeled by Jesus himself.

Examples: fasting, confession, prayer, giving, hospitality, singing, meditating on Scripture, memorizing Scripture, thanksgiving, serving.

Spiritual Disciplines are not...an attitude like happiness or calmness; any pleasurable activity, like painting.

Read 1 Timothy 4:7-8. Maybe it’s time to discipline yourself for both bodily and godly health. The whole point of discipline is that it’s not fun at first, but it becomes a habit that you enjoy over time, seeing the fruit of your labor.

**RESPOND:**

Which Spiritual Discipline listed above is something you can try today?

**REAL LIFE:**

Ask your student if they have ever felt that “aimless” feeling in their life? What was going on? How did it make them feel? Do they feel that way now? Maybe they are struggling to find meaning and purpose right now or feel lost in their faith. When your student has had sufficient time to talk, tell them a story about when you felt lost, aimless, purposeless, meaningless. Talk to them about how you relied on God (or didn’t) and how that season turned out.

# Week 2 | Day 3

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 10, **Today's Spotlight:** 1 Corinthians 10:14

*Side Note: Verses 1-11 point out the fact that the Old Testament was basically written to instruct us. We were given examples in a lot of cases of what NOT to do, basically saying we can learn from the mistakes of the people that came before us. It can be harder to get "into" the Old Testament than the New Testament. But look at it from this perspective: it was written so we could learn more about God and how to be in a close relationship with him. When you read it that way, it's a lot more interesting! Try it. Don't be scared to dive in.*

## **REFLECT:**

Idolatry. This seems like an easy one, because it's doubtful any of us have a little statue on the shelf in the kitchen that we light a candle for and pray at. But an "idol" can be anything that we put above God. Anything! You may say that Jesus comes before anything in your life, but take a step back and ask yourself if you are letting something else function as a god in your life.

*"Could it be that desire for a good thing has become a bad thing because that desire has become a ruling thing?" - Paul David Tripp*

In other words: when a good thing becomes a god thing, that makes it a bad thing. It could be a number of things like looks, the approval of others, money, etc. Even a GOOD thing. Listen - sports, school, jobs, even a loved one - these are all good and great things! And none of us are encouraging you to quit any of those things just because you may put too much weight on it. But ask yourselves these questions:

Do I desire it more than God? Do I prioritize it before God? Does it control me? Do I seek validation from it more than from God?

## **RESPOND:**

What do you seek from God? Do you seek those things from other stuff

## **REAL LIFE:**

Talk through what your family may have prioritized over God in the last year. What will it look like for your family to realign some priorities in conjunction with what your core values are? Do you have core values as a family? This may be time to set some so that it's an easy win to see when activities don't align with them. Reinforce to your student that being involved in activities outside of church is a great thing, because that's where we find our mission field. And at the same time, there can be a healthy balance of still making sure God is at the center of the family.

Now instruct each member of the family to pick three people that you know you'll see tomorrow and pray for them specifically. Pray that you'll be able to speak words that build them up tomorrow and not tear them down. It doesn't have to stop with this one day devotional.

# Week 2 | Day 4

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 11, **Today's Spotlight:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

## **REFLECT:**

Q: What is the Lord's Supper?

A: AKA "Communion". Representation of Jesus's body that he broke (like bread) and blood that he spilled (like wine) on the cross for us. It's a time to remember what he did for us. It originated in the "Last Supper" (see Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, or John 13), the night before he was killed on the cross.

"Do this in \_\_\_\_\_ of me": we participate to honor and remember him. Think about the cross (see John 18-20). Thank him. Serve him because of all he's done for you.

Q: Why did Paul need to talk to the Corinthians about it?

A: They were abusing it. In the early church, communion involved a meal, and as you can tell from your reading, people were using it as an excuse to over-indulge. Quite frankly, at the heart of it, they were forgetting the true meaning of the act of remembering Jesus, and they just turned it into a big party. It would be ok if they were celebrating Jesus at this party, but Jesus was less and less the focus.

Q: How do I participate?

A: "Examine himself"

1. Participate only if you have a relationship with Jesus.
2. Have a mindset of confession (1 John 1:9), examination (Psalm 139:23-24), and making things right (Matthew 5:23-24). This is an invitation for introspective work.

## **RESPOND:**

Confession is one of the spiritual disciplines, like we talked about two days ago, and it can be a practice that moves you from milk to steak. Let's practice it today! Read Psalm 51. What will you confess before God?

## **REAL LIFE:**

After you've confessed sin to God, sometimes we still need to come clean to the person we wronged (see James 5:16). Who is someone you've hurt recently? Go apologize to that person and ask for their forgiveness. Even if they do not respond well or in the way you may hope, sometimes it's important to just go and try to make things right no matter the reply (see Romans 12:18). (This was the challenge to your student today. Do the same, and come back together and talk through the emotions and words that were exchanged during this conversation.)

# Week 2 | Day 5

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 12

**REFLECT:**

Here's What Spiritual Gifts Are Not...

- Natural Talent: someone may say “she has such a natural artistic ability”. That may be true, but that is not a Spiritual Gift, according to 1 Corinthians 12.
- Age-Group Ministry: someone else may say, “he is so good working with the kids at his church”. That may also be true, yet not listed with the Spiritual Gifts.
- For Just Anyone: yes, this passage talks about “many”, but it is talking about those in the Spirit, meaning Christians.

Here's What Spiritual Gifts Are...

- Supernaturally given to Christians
- From the Holy Spirit
- For the purpose of the gospel
- For the purpose of encouraging other believers
- For the good of others
- To point people to God

If you are a Christian, you have a unique role in God's family. Don't let anyone tell you that you don't. How can God use you? You have a place to serve that God wants you. All believers should not only worship him but serve as well. Think about the functions of the church, even during the pandemic: we have LifeGroup leaders, people organizing meals for the grieving, worshippers on stage, teachers, greeters at the door, parking ministry. And that's JUST Sunday morning!

**RESPOND:**

We've repeated the title of this series several times at this point: *Messy Church, Merciful God*. How might the church get messy if its people do not use their Spiritual Gifts? Why is it merciful that God gives us Spiritual Gifts?

**REAL LIFE:**

What are your spiritual gifts? It may help to talk through with your student what they are and where you serve to use them. Did you know that we have someone on our staff whose job is to help you figure out the best places you may want to serve in the church? Reach out to us for a basic spiritual gifts test and some information about how to put your gifts to work for God.

# Week 2 | Day 6

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 13-14

**REFLECT:**

Compare that with what Paul is saying at the beginning of this chapter. If you serve people, have the most faith of anyone, tell the whole world about Jesus, but you don't have love, it's useless! Your heart needs to match your actions. Why would anyone believe you when you tell them about the gospel but you don't love them?

God is kind to us to explain love, which is another cool thing about the Bible. Paul doesn't just tell us to love, and then move on. He explains how to love.

*This is not a comprehensive definition of love, as you'll find out when you understand the context a little more. Here are some verses for more reading on love: John 15:12, 13; Ephesians 5:25-26; 1 John 4:8, 16-20.*

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Remember the context! Paul is answering questions about the functions of the church. He is showing the Corinthians that they are not being patient and kind. They are being envious and boastful. In other words, they are not loving.

**RESPOND:**

If Paul is pointing out how loving/not loving the Corinthians are, let's ask ourselves the same question. How loving are you? Replace love with your name, and write it out. Is what you said true? What areas of love do you need to let God work on in you today?

**REAL LIFE:**

Ok, parents, this is a brave one... Ask your student what qualities of love that you show toward them. Ask them the ones that you all need to work on as a family.

# Week 2 | Day 7

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 15-16, **Today's Spotlight:** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 14

## **REFLECT:**

This is the good news. Do you trust him? Because if the resurrection didn't really happen, Paul basically says in verse fourteen that we're all wasting our time here.

In the last section of chapter fifteen, he refers to the second coming of Christ. Jesus is coming back for you if you are his. That is good news! That makes this world a whole lot less of a priority and the hard times you're going through a whole lot less despairing, because this won't last long (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). We had a DNOW speaker a few years ago that said, "If you're a Christian, this world is the closest to Hell you'll ever get. If you're not a Christian, this world is the closest to Heaven you'll ever get." Let that sink in a second...I'd much rather this life be the worst that I go through than the best.

If you are in Christ, we have every reason to rejoice. Jesus is coming back. Are you ready for him? If you're not one of his followers, what is holding you back from committing to him today?

## **RESPOND:**

1 Corinthians 15:58 says, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." When was the last time you felt like you were doing something for God that was wasted?

## **REAL LIFE:**

Even if you got no praise, no reward, and no response... it's worth it to obey God. Keep living for him and don't think that one single second is wasted. This would be a great time to talk with your student about their salvation. If they have never made a decision for Jesus, talk with them about what may be holding them back. Then talk with them about what God may be doing in their lives right now. Really take time to listen and enjoy this conversation with your student.