

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 1:17–25

DISCUSSION 1: CROSS

1. How was the cross a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Greeks (1:22)? What are reasons the cross is “foolish” to the world today?
2. Why is the cross “the power of God” for believers?
3. How is God’s power to save in the message (the gospel) and not in the wisdom or winsomeness of our own words? Why should this give us confidence in evangelism and discipleship that’s rooted in the Spirit and Scripture rather than our own gifts, power, or knowledge?

DISCUSSION 2: FOOLISHNESS VS WISDOM

1. What does it mean that God makes foolish the wisdom of this world? What are ways we see this play out in our own lives or in the world?
2. Why should this cause us to seek and prioritize being wise in God’s eyes and according to His Word rather than through the world’s ways?
3. We’re all tempted to want to be seen as wise, powerful, and respectable in the eyes of the world. Why can this be dangerous for believers?
4. How is Jesus both the wisdom of God and the power of God (1:25)? What does this look like in day-to-day life to turn to and trust in Jesus as your wisdom and power?