

THE BOOK OF

1 Corinthians

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

Silly Saints

OPENING QUESTION

Of all the people you know, who do you consider to be a “saint”?

READ 1 Corinthians 1:1–31.

1. Paul refers to the believers in Corinth as “saints” (vs. 2—KJV & ESV & NASB; “holy” NIV & NLT).

What makes people “saints”?

- A. Living a holy life.
- B. You have to die first.
- C. Being born into a Christian family.
- D. Making a commitment to Christ at some point in one’s life.
- E. Doing better than you did previously.
- F. Having Christ in one’s life.
- G. It requires a church vote or at least a consensus.
- H. Keeping certain parts of one’s life a secret.
- I. Other.

2. This church didn’t lack any spiritual gift (vs. 7). What does this mean?

- A. This was a highly potent, spiritual group.
- B. They were rich and had need of nothing, like the church in Laodicea.
- C. The Holy Spirit had full sway with this group of believers.
- D. The community would experience tremendous blessings.
- E. Believers would probably start ranking spiritual gifts.
- F. The church would be a great representation of Jesus.
- G. God’s people had everything they needed to minister/serve.
- H. Other.

3. What causes divisions or divisiveness in a church?

- A. Strong people.
- B. People.
- C. Truth versus error.
- D. Dumb ideas or decisions.
- E. The absence of God.
- F. Change (or lack of change).
- G. Lack of forgiveness.
- H. Other.

4. What makes the cross of Christ “foolish”?

- A. It just doesn't make sense.
- B. God can't change places with humans—Jesus dying in our place.
- C. Christ died; therefore he can't be alive.
- D. So few people stood up for Christ before and during his crucifixion.
- E. Religious, political, and military leaders all agreed Christ should be crucified.
- F. Most of the smartest people in the world don't follow Christ.
- G. His own followers turned on him, including his disciple Judas.
- H. How many of your heroes are on death row or executed criminals?
- I. Other.

5. What makes the cross of Christ “weak”?

- A. Christ died.
- B. He did a bunch of miracles but ran out of steam at the end.
- C. Christ should have used force against his opponents.
- D. If Jesus really was God, why didn't he save himself?
- E. Christ lost.
- F. Losers are attracted to the cross because they are so weak.
- G. No staying power, as demonstrated by so many who deserted Christ.
- H. Other.

6. Where were you when Christ called you to Himself?

- A. I was considered to be a “loser” by many people.
- B. I was quite young.
- C. I experienced some success, and my future seemed very bright.
- D. I was flat on my back.
- E. I had it made and was the envy of many people.
- F. I was pretty much “average.”
- G. I was lost and seemed oblivious to it.
- H. Other.

7. What are examples of the world's values compared to God values?

THE WORLD'S VALUES

GOD'S VALUES

8. Where have you seen God shame the world's values with his people who have God's values?

Open Secrets

OPENING QUESTION

When have you shared a secret someone else told you?

READ 1 Corinthians 2:1–16.

1. Why was Paul fixated on Jesus Christ and His crucifixion?

- B. Because that's all that really matters.
- C. He was tired of philosophical arguments with wise guys.
- D. The Damascus road experience ingrained this in Paul.
- E. Paul had OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder).
- F. It was a hard sell that required repeated emphasis.
- G. Such injustice and cruelty to the Son of God led people to repent.
- H. The love of Christ comes through so powerfully.
- I. It demands a response.
- J. Other.

2. The Spirit of God is much more than just human power when:

- A. Miracles happen.
- B. Human power and ingenuity isn't enough to get the job done.
- C. Somebody says, "You're never going to believe this, but..."
- D. "Coincidences" happen.
- E. The underdog wins.
- F. Somebody says something and it's clearly not just their own words.
- G. There is a revelation that creates an "aha" moment.
- H. What humans planned gives ways to something obviously bigger.
- I. Other.

3. What's an example of "speaking words of wisdom to those who are spiritually mature"

(vs. 6)?

- A. Using, like, really, really BIG words.
- B. Those who are "into God" take a message to heart.
- C. People are moved to tears.
- D. Challenging assumptions and the status quo.
- E. People are left speechless.
- F. A long-time Christian says, "Now I get it!"
- G. I wouldn't know.
- H. Other.

4. What is the “mystery of God”?

- A. Only God knows.
- B. Only God’s people know.
- C. Figuring out what life is all about.
- D. That the Old Testament foretold the coming of the Messiah.
- E. God doesn’t fit into the boxes we’ve made for him.
- F. Science.
- G. Christ died for all—those who follow him and those who don’t.
- H. Having a relationship with a God you can’t see or hear.
- I. Other.

5. When do we get to see what God has prepared for those who love him?

- A. Not until we get to heaven.
- B. After a person has been a Christian for a long time.
- C. It requires a dream or vision.
- D. We can read about it in the Bible.
- E. When God’s Spirit lives in us.
- F. When somebody posts it on social media.
- G. Some will never see it.
- H. Other.

6. Something people of this world just don’t understand about God is:

- A. That God exists.
- B. Why God would love us.
- C. Why there is so much suffering in the world.
- D. How people find God in religion.
- E. Christ coming to earth and dying on the cross.
- F. Could the resurrection really happen?
- G. Why God doesn’t move more quickly.
- H. Other.

7. What is something that perplexes you about God?

8. What is something God’s Spirit has already revealed to you?

Grow Up

OPENING QUESTION

If you had to eat baby food, what two things would you choose?

READ 1 Corinthians 3:1–23.

1. What does it mean to be immature spiritually?

- B. Not being able to engage in theological discussions.
- C. Needing forgiveness for the same thing, over and over again.
- D. Focusing on external behavior rather than inner motives of the heart.
- E. Simplifying everything down to “love.”
- F. Requiring specific rules and regulations to govern everything.
- G. Only spiritually mature people know.
- H. Being spiritual only when those around you act that way.
- I. Living the same way as a person who isn’t spiritually alive.
- J. Other.

2. What does a mature Christian look like?

- A. Very old.
- B. Very wise.
- C. You can’t always tell by looking.
- D. Able to discern what is important and what isn’t important.
- E. Actively loving.
- F. A strong and consistent personal relationship with Christ.
- G. Involved in lots of service activities.
- H. Clearly a leader at church.
- I. Other.

3. Why do Christians follow certain Christian leaders or personalities?

- A. It’s just the human thing to do—we can’t help it.
- B. We can see them; we can’t see God.
- C. They are our heroes.
- D. It seems to help.
- E. They function as our “golden calf” when our God is invisible.
- F. True Christians don’t.
- G. It’s a trap set by Satan.
- H. It’s all a marketing ploy.
- I. Other.

4. What does Paul mean when he wrote that “no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ” (vs. 11)?

- A. You can try something other than Jesus, but it won't work.
- B. Jesus has already laid the foundation—it's a done deal.
- C. You've gotta start with Jesus.
- D. Jesus is your foundation, but each person builds their own structure.
- E. Jesus is the same for everyone.
- F. Once you have Jesus, build on that.
- G. Jesus doesn't change.
- H. People may seem to have different foundations, but it's still Jesus.
- I. Other.

5. What are the materials that make up your building?

- A. Only the finest—gold and precious stones.
- B. Recycled goods.
- C. Dirt/Sod.
- D. It's a typical tract house in a middle class neighborhood.
- E. A lot of add-ons.
- F. I'm ready for a remodel; maybe even a make-over.
- G. Other.

6. What did Paul mean when he wrote: “You are God's temple” and “God's Spirit lives in you” and “God will destroy anyone who destroys his temple” (vs. 16)?

- A. Take care of your body because it's the temple of God.
- B. If you don't take healthful living seriously, you will pay for it.
- C. This isn't about personal health; it's about a community of faith.
- D. Spiritual health is more important than physical health.
- E. God's Spirit is what makes us God's temple.
- F. God decides which temples survive and which temples don't.
- G. The foundation is really all that matters.
- H. God's Spirit, not some preacher, holds God's people together.
- I. Other.

7. Name some people who have influenced your relationship with God?

8. What was their impact on you?

Perspective

OPENING QUESTION

When/Where have you seen an optical illusion or a mirage?

READ 1 Corinthians 4:1–21.

1. Who judges you?

- A. Nobody.
- B. Everybody.
- C. People who know me well.
- D. People who don't know me.
- E. Animals, including pets.
- F. God.
- G. People at church.
- H. I judge myself.
- I. Other.

2. Paul said not to judge until Christ returns (*vs. 5*). How does that work?

- A. That's unrealistic.
- B. It would be good for me.
- C. We'll never know right from wrong if there isn't some "discernment."
- D. Our judgments are so faulty that they are dangerous, not helpful.
- E. God will reveal people's dark secrets when He returns.
- F. Only God knows a person's true motives for their actions.
- G. That would take away a lot of fun.
- H. This contradicts what Paul wrote in *1 Cor 6:1-3* and *2 Cor 11:12-15*.
- I. Other.

3. What have you already received from God?

- A. Forgiveness for my sins.
- B. The promise of eternal life one day.
- C. Eternal life that has already begun.
- D. Insights that I wouldn't get any other way.
- E. A new family of faith.
- F. Discernment.
- G. Power to overcome sin.
- H. Changes in my character so I've become more Christlike.
- I. Other.

4. What are you apt to brag about even though it's a gift from God?

- A. Nothing; I never brag about myself.
- B. God gave me my talents, but I'm the one who developed them.
- C. My family.
- D. Jesus.
- E. Academics/Intelligence.
- F. My reputation (that I have built over time).
- G. Finances (what I've earned and built).
- H. I don't say anything, but how I look is important to me.
- I. Other.

5. Who is below you on the totem pole?

- A. I'm at the very bottom.
- B. I put myself at the bottom and let others move me up.
- C. Jesus.
- D. Those with mental illness.
- E. Those below my pay grade.
- F. Anyone the world puts toward the top.
- G. It should be obvious to anyone who can see.
- H. Other.

6. Who do you imitate in your spiritual life?

- A. Those above me on the totem pole.
- B. Those below me on the totem pole.
- C. I don't have a mentor or role model in my spiritual life.
- D. Jesus (give examples).
- E. One of my parents.
- F. My pastor.
- G. Someone I watch/listen to via media (TV, video, internet, etc.).
- H. Other.

7. Paul wrote that the kingdom of God is not just talk, but POWER. Where do you see the kingdom of God demonstrating POWER right now?

8. How do you respond to discipline?

Get Outta Here

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time when you were left out of an activity because you might infect others due to your own sickness.

READ 1 Corinthians 5:1–13.

1. Sexual immorality today is a problem for:

- A. Worldly people.
- B. Christians.
- C. Adolescents.
- D. Singles.
- E. Those who go clubbing on weekends.
- F. Same sex couples.
- G. Married people.
- H. It really isn't a problem.
- I. Other.

2. Should someone be removed from the church due to sexual immorality?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. It's really not anybody's business.
- D. We'd lose half of our church members if we did that.
- E. It's better to try to redeem them than to remove them.
- F. Don't be so old fashioned.
- G. I'm really conflicted over this.
- H. It's up to the pastor or church leaders to make that decision.
- I. Other.

3. What's a good way for a church to deal with a sexually immoral person?

- A. There is no good way to deal with it.
- B. Confront the person head on.
- C. It depends on who's involved.
- D. Work with them quietly.
- E. Take it to the pastor or the board of elders.
- F. Ask them to take a break.
- G. Have the church be a place of acceptance, no matter what.
- H. Talk about the person behind their back.
- I. Other.

4. What does “Christ our Passover Lamb” (vs. 7) have to do with this?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Everything.
- C. I don't know.
- D. Because of all Christ went through, we should willingly sacrifice, too.
- E. We belong to Him, not to another lover.
- F. Sexual sin spreads like yeast; the Passover was yeast-free.
- G. It's always about Jesus.
- H. This means it's serious.
- I. Other.

5. What associations do you have with people who aren't Christians?

- A. Lots.
- B. Zero to none.
- C. Work or school-related contacts.
- D. Family.
- E. Friends.
- F. I try to stay clear of “non-Christians.”
- G. I pray for them from a distance.
- H. Other.

6. How do you relate to worldly people?

- A. Not very well.
- B. That describes some of my best friends.
- C. Not as well as I used to.
- D. I don't really notice.
- E. I don't make those kinds of judgments.
- F. That's my “mission field.”
- G. I find it works best to just avoid them.
- H. Other.

7. What sin(s) should those inside the church be judging (vs. 12)?

8. When should you remove a person from the church rather than keeping them in the church?

Come Together

OPENING QUESTION

When did someone unfairly pass judgment on you?

READ 1 Corinthians 6:1—20.

1. If you had a legal dispute, who would you want to settle it?

- A. A friend.
- B. A judge at court.
- C. A pastor.
- D. A stranger.
- E. You.
- F. The person with whom you were having the dispute.
- G. Any church member.
- H. Just do “rock, paper, scissors,” and move on.
- I. Other.

2. Who are God’s people to judge?

- A. No one.
- B. Everyone.
- C. Satan.
- D. Satan’s angels.
- E. God.
- F. The wicked.
- G. The righteous.
- H. Whoever judges them.
- I. Other.

3. Which list of sinners would you most likely exclude from the kingdom of God?

- A. Sexual perverts, liars, egotists.
- B. Gossipers, overeaters, lazy.
- C. Drug dealers, prostitutes, drunks.
- D. Hypocrites, politicians, back-stabbers.
- E. Cheaters, thieves, manipulators.
- F. Self-righteous, prejudiced, materialistic.
- G. Adulterers, secular, impulsive.
- H. Child predators, murderers, Satanists.
- I. Other.

4. What does the physical have to do with the spiritual?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Everything.
- C. The physical fights against the spiritual.
- D. The spiritual fights against the physical.
- E. We must integrate the physical, spiritual, mental, and social.
- F. The physical is fallen; the spiritual is beyond this world.
- G. They affect each other.
- H. Other.

5. Who owns your body?

- A. Nobody.
- B. You own your own body.
- C. God.
- D. It changes sometimes.
- E. Your coach.
- F. Your spouse.
- G. Whatever you're addicted to owns your body.
- H. Other.

6. Based on 1 Corinthians 6, sexual relations are for:

- A. Any two consenting adults.
- B. Those willing to pay for it.
- C. Married couples.
- D. Two people of the opposite gender.
- E. Creating a new life.
- F. Glorifying God.
- G. Anyone, as long as nobody gets hurt.
- H. Sexual desire, arousal, or expression.
- I. Other.

7. When should a Christian just accept injustice rather than fighting for one's rights (vs. 7)?

8. What's the best way to avoid sexual sin? Why do our bodies belong to God?

Love, Sex, and Marriage

OPENING QUESTION

What is a good age to get married?

READ 1 Corinthians 7:1–40.

1. Why is it good to be celibate?

- A. It isn't good.
- B. Sex can be such a distraction.
- C. The Apostle Paul said it is good.
- D. It frees a person from using sex to gain power or control.
- E. It demands self-control, and that's a very good thing.
- F. This would prevent lots of sinful activities.
- G. I have absolutely no idea.
- H. Reduce the world's over-population.
- I. Other.

2. When is it okay to tell your spouse, "Not tonight, dear"?

- A. Whenever you want to say it.
- B. When you're tired or have a headache.
- C. When your spouse says it's okay.
- D. When your spouse comes on too strong.
- E. When both you and your spouse agree.
- F. It's not okay.
- G. When both you and your spouse are spending extra time praying.
- H. Once or twice a week.
- I. Other.

3. What is Paul's counsel to those who were previously married?

- A. Stay single.
- B. Get remarried.
- C. It's up to you.
- D. God would prefer that you remain single.
- E. Paul would prefer that you remain single.
- F. You got a lucky break.
- G. I'm so sorry for the pain you must have experienced.
- H. If you really want the sex, go ahead and get another spouse.
- I. Other.

4. What is Paul's counsel to those who are married?

- A. Consider yourself blessed.
- B. Hang in there.
- C. Don't leave your spouse.
- D. It's okay to leave your spouse.
- E. It's okay to return to your spouse after leaving for a while.
- F. Stay with your unbelieving spouse.
- G. Drive away your unbelieving spouse.
- H. Stay together for the sake of the children.
- I. Other.

5. What does it mean to remain in the same situation as when God first called you (vs. 24)?

- A. Don't move.
- B. Don't use an unbelieving spouse as an excuse to leave the marriage.
- C. Keep your same job, even if it compromises your new beliefs.
- D. Nothing really changes when a person accepts Christ.
- E. Don't join a church unless your spouse joins you in doing so.
- F. Sexual practices shouldn't change when a person accepts Christ.
- G. Don't send your children to a boarding school.
- H. Other.

6. What counsel would you give to young people who aren't married?

- A. Don't do it.
- B. Do it.
- C. Wait until you're done with your schooling.
- D. Wait until you're done messing around.
- E. Get married rather than being sexually promiscuous.
- F. Don't get married because the end of the world is so near.
- G. Spare yourself the problems that come with marriage.
- H. Marriage will completely change your life.
- I. Other.

7. What do you consider the top three reasons to be married?

8. What do you consider the top three reasons to not be married?

Who Knows?

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time you were with someone much more knowledgeable than you.

READ 1 Corinthians 8:1–13.

1. What's the big deal about food sacrificed to idols?

- A. It's important to be a vegetarian.
- B. It's important not to worship idols.
- C. It might not be wrong, but it can lead to what's wrong.
- D. Who cares?
- E. It was a return to idol worship for those who had done so in the past.
- F. People misunderstand what it means.
- G. If everyone was vegan, this wouldn't be a problem.
- H. Other.

2. How much religious knowledge do you have?

- A. Hardly any.
- B. Quite a bit, but please don't quiz or test me.
- C. There are plenty of people who have more than I have.
- D. I'm familiar with a lot of things, but I couldn't teach it.
- E. I'm embarrassed about how little I know after all these years.
- F. Not as much as I wish I had.
- G. I'm not bragging, but most of this stuff I've heard before.
- H. There's more in my head than what's in my heart or life.
- I. Other.

3. Who do you need to take into account when making big, life decisions?

- A. Only God.
- B. Me—who I am, my responsibilities, and my goals.
- C. Family and friends.
- D. My church.
- E. My boss or employees.
- F. The economy (mine and the bigger picture).
- G. The government—taxes, regulations, policies, laws.
- H. My age or stage in life.
- I. Other.

4. What is a “weak conscience”?

- A. Easily changed.
- B. Undeveloped.
- C. Lacking endurance.
- D. A bent toward evil.
- E. Knowing the “what” but not the “why.”
- F. Living without conviction.
- G. Poorly informed.
- H. Other.

5. Who is the “weaker brother or sister”?

- A. Someone easily offended.
- B. A new believer who lacks a lot of knowledge or experience.
- C. Someone who doesn’t attend church very much.
- D. A person who has gone to church for years.
- E. Those who dictate what’s “okay” and “not okay” at church.
- F. A believer who rarely works out and therefore has weak muscles.
- G. Anyone who believes differently than you.
- H. Young people.
- I. Other.

6. When are you likely to do something that might offend a “weaker brother or sister”?

- A. When I don’t think they are around.
- B. When I’m tired of giving in to hyper-sensitive religious fanatics.
- C. At a church potluck.
- D. Different Sabbath observance practices.
- E. Sexual activities.
- F. Alcohol use.
- G. Media choices.
- H. Other.

7. What are you willing to give up for a “weaker brother or sister”?

8. What are the advantages and disadvantages that come from years and years of religious life?

The Payoff

OPENING QUESTION

What was it like to receive your first paycheck?

READ 1 Corinthians 9:1–27.

1. What rights do you have as a follower of Christ?

- A. Be treated with fairness and respect.
- B. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- C. Persecution and possibly death.
- D. Peace, joy, and love.
- E. Respect
- F. None.
- G. All that goes with being a child of the King.
- H. The fellowship of Christ's suffering.
- I. Other.

2. To whom or what do you make donations?

- A. My church.
- B. Missions.
- C. A wide variety.
- D. Not much.
- E. I must be able to get a tax-deductible receipt.
- F. Whoever or whatever I believe in.
- G. Instead of money I'm more likely to give my time or talents.
- H. People in need because of disasters or emergencies.
- I. Other.

3. Do you get paid for your "work" for Christ, or should that be donated?

- A. It should all be donated as your gift.
- B. Only ordained pastors should get paid.
- C. You've got to have receipts if you want to be reimbursed.
- D. If it's stuff I don't want to do, then pay me for it; otherwise it's free.
- E. You have to go through HR if you want to be paid.
- F. Just make sure I get to go to heaven.
- G. I had no idea that I could be paid for what I do for Christ.
- H. I wish someone would just give me a little recognition once in a while.
- I. Other.

4. What payment(s) do you receive for sharing the Gospel?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Just sharing the Gospel is enough payment for me.
- C. Not enough to make a living.
- D. Not what I'm worth.
- E. More than I give.
- F. I should get a discount on tithe—only 5% instead of 10%.
- G. Making a difference in the lives of others.
- H. I won't find out until I get to heaven.
- I. Other.

5. How compelled are you to share the Gospel?

- A. I consider this a clear mandate from Christ.
- B. I try to show it by my lifestyle more than just talking about it.
- C. I'm not sure I can clearly communicate what the Gospel is.
- D. I look for opportunities to do this on a daily basis.
- E. I'm just too busy to do that.
- F. It seems too contrived, forced, or put-on for me to do.
- G. I don't have a clue how to do this.
- H. Other.

6. What do you include in your “training” for the race you run for God?

- A. Regular workouts.
- B. Good nutrition.
- C. A clear goal.
- D. Scheduled rest and recuperation.
- E. Coaching.
- F. Teammates.
- G. Stretching exercises.
- H. Other.

7. What adaptations do you make in order to reach people where they are with the Gospel?

8. At what point does “fitting in with others” actually reduce the effectiveness of the Gospel?

Here We Go Again

OPENING QUESTION

What's something you wish you could have done back in Bible times?

READ 1 Corinthians 10:1–33.

1. What stories of faith have been passed on to you?

- A. I can't think of any.
- B. Old Testament stories.
- C. New Testament stories.
- D. Stories about the pioneers of my denomination.
- E. My grandparents' experiences.
- F. Stories my parents shared with me.
- G. Stories at church.
- H. I recount stories of faith that have happened to me.
- I. Other.

2. If God directed you with a cloud, how would you respond?

- A. I would go anywhere and everywhere the cloud led me.
- B. I would go the opposite direction.
- C. I would go only if I wanted to go.
- D. I wouldn't trust a cloud.
- E. I would need more than just a cloud.
- F. Sometimes I would follow it and sometimes I wouldn't.
- G. That's about as crazy as hearing voices in your head.
- H. I look for "open" and "closed" doors rather than a cloud.
- I. Other.

3. Where do you tend to give in to temptation (in spite of vs. 13)?

- A. Food.
- B. Sexual stuff.
- C. Gossip.
- D. Lying.
- E. Put downs.
- F. It has to be my way.
- G. me, Me, ME!
- H. Busyness.
- I. Other.

4. What are good escapes from temptation?

- A. Leave the scene.
- B. Keep one's mouth shut.
- C. Redirect with a helpful distraction.
- D. Have an accountability partner.
- E. Overcome evil with good.
- F. Pray, and pray some more.
- G. Go exercise.
- H. Stay away from (certain) people.
- I. Stay with (certain) people.
- J. Other.

5. What makes you part of a community of faith?

- A. My beliefs.
- B. My background—I grew up with it.
- C. I worship regularly with a community of faith.
- D. I participate in what the faith community does.
- E. I don't want to be around hypocrites.
- F. My name is on the membership roll.
- G. I feel like I belong.
- H. I'm a leader and I make things happen there.
- I. Other.

6. What's with this "food sacrificed to idols" coming up again?

- A. It must have been a big problem in Corinth.
- B. Paul forgot that he wrote about it earlier.
- C. Paul used repetition for effect.
- D. Paul gives a slightly different twist on it this time.
- E. "Don't ask, don't tell" is a good way around this problem.
- F. It's obviously a really a big deal to some people.
- G. It could split the church.
- H. Other.

7. In what way(s) are you similar to the Israelites in the wilderness? How are you different from them?

8. What's an example of one of your "rights" that might offend others?

Customs

OPENING QUESTION

When has your hair been the longest it's ever been? What was that like?

READ 1 Corinthians 11:1–34.

1. Paul said, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ.” How would you say it?

- A. Exactly the same as Paul.
- B. Don't imitate me.
- C. Imitate me some of the time, but not all of the time.
- D. It's very dangerous to imitate people.
- E. Pick carefully who you imitate.
- F. Pick carefully when you imitate.
- G. God does provide human role models for us.
- H. I can't believe the role models some people choose!
- I. Other.

2. How would you respond to the “heads” in *verse 3*?

- A. I couldn't agree more.
- B. I couldn't disagree more.
- C. This is what I hate about the Bible and Church—male domination.
- D. That was just the custom in Corinth in Paul's day.
- E. It's based on creation and which came first: Christ, man, woman.
- F. It just shows the line of authority in a patriarchal society.
- G. I wish this wasn't in the Bible.
- H. I just ignore passages like this.
- I. Other.

3. What's the deal with the long hair?

- A. Females should never have short hair.
- B. Males should have short hair.
- C. It was just the custom at that time.
- D. There should be some differences between males and females.
- E. It's symbolic of something.
- F. God doesn't like hippies.
- G. Styles change, but God doesn't change.
- H. Men tend to go bald, but few women do.
- I. Other.

4. What divisions or groupings are present at your church?

- A. Age.
- B. Male and female.
- C. Socio-economic status.
- D. Level of church involvement.
- E. Leadership: Pastors, elders, church officers, others.
- F. The number of years you've been at a particular church.
- G. Families, broken families, singles, couples, other.
- H. Talkers, do-ers, those up front, those who sit in the back.
- I. Frequency of church attendance.
- J. Other.

5. What preparations do you usually make for The Lord's Supper?

- A. None.
- B. I avoid church when I know it's going to happen.
- C. I do the foot-washing service.
- D. I contact people I have wronged and ask for forgiveness.
- E. I contact people who have wronged me and offer forgiveness.
- F. I spend some time in reflection and meditation.
- G. I help with the logistics so it happens.
- H. I eat beforehand so I don't starve while it's happening.
- I. Other.

6. When you participate "in remembrance of me," what do you think about?

- A. The death of Christ.
- B. What it might have been like when Christ did it the first time.
- C. What losers and idiots the clueless disciples were.
- D. How much God loves me.
- E. The harsh reality that my sins killed Jesus.
- F. Christ's promise to do this again with us in His Kingdom.
- G. What are we going to have for lunch, and how long until we get it?
- H. Other.

7. What are examples of meaningful customs at your church? What are examples of customs at your church that lack meaning for you?

8. What impact does The Lord's Supper have on you?

Gifts Galore

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time when someone gave you an awesome gift.

READ 1 Corinthians 12:1–31.

1. How can a person know if they have the Holy Spirit?

- A. You can never know for sure.
- B. What is the Holy Spirit?
- C. The person has to be nicer than they used to be.
- D. There is evidence that the person is “pro-Jesus.”
- E. By demonstrating spiritual gifts.
- F. You get this special “zing” feeling inside.
- G. Pray for the Holy Spirit and then believe you’ve received it.
- H. If you can speak in tongues, you definitely have the Spirit.
- I. Other.

2. Why does the Holy Spirit give gifts to God’s people?

- A. The Holy Spirit is generous and loves to give.
- B. There are plenty of gifts, so why not pass them out?
- C. The gifts are intended to build up God’s Church.
- D. Spiritual gifts increase the service projects a church does.
- E. So people will grow in their spiritual lives.
- F. It’s the way God continues the ministry of Jesus on earth.
- G. God’s people need supernatural means to do what’s needed.
- H. Spiritual gifts call for those gifted to work together—it leads to unity.
- I. Other.

3. What determines who gets which spiritual gift(s)?

- A. It depends on who’s naughty and who’s nice.
- B. You have to be old enough to use the gifts properly.
- C. The talents you’ve been given.
- D. If you use what you’ve been given, then you get more.
- E. It’s based on seniority.
- F. The Holy Spirit makes the call.
- G. It’s determined by how much faith a person has.
- H. It’s random and it boils down to a matter of luck.
- I. Other.

4. The spiritual gifts I've seen in my church include:

- A. Teachers and apostles.
- B. Prophets and helpers.
- C. Organizers and those who speak in tongues.
- D. Miracle-workers and donors.
- E. Visionaries and worker-bees.
- F. Preachers and healers.
- G. Interpreting tongues and administration.
- H. Other.

5. What do you think about the topic of Spiritual Gifts?

- A. I have no idea what you're talking about.
- B. I don't think about this much.
- C. This is the key to unlock God's work in our church and in our world.
- D. I'd like to know more about it.
- E. I took a spiritual gifts inventory and then nothing happened after that.
- F. My church neglects this topic.
- G. I think this applies to the church in Corinth more than to my church.
- H. This is awesome!
- I. Other.

6. In what way is your Church unbalanced when it comes to spiritual gifts?

- A. Too much preaching; not enough faith.
- B. Too many miracles; not enough helpers.
- C. Too many prophets; not enough organizers.
- D. Too many worker-bees; not enough praying people.
- E. Too many teachers; not enough speaking in tongues.
- F. Lots of activity, but not much evidence of God.
- G. We expect God to do what we should already be doing.
- H. Other.

7. Which spiritual gifts have you been given? How do you know? How and when do you use your spiritual gift(s)?

8. To illustrate how spiritual gifts work together, Paul used the analogy of the human body. What's another analogy that could explain this today?

True Love

OPENING QUESTION

Finish this sentence at least three different ways: “I love_____.”

READ 1 Corinthians 13:1–13.

1. What are people likely to make more important than love?

- A. Money.
- B. Accomplishments.
- C. Power.
- D. Sex.
- E. Status.
- F. Time.
- G. Religion.
- H. Ego.
- I. Other.

2. What are religious people likely to make more important than love?

- A. Traditions.
- B. Evangelism.
- C. Ego.
- D. Family.
- E. Purity.
- F. Church involvement.
- G. Heaven.
- H. Spiritual gifts.
- I. Other.

3. What is love?

- A. A feeling.
- B. An action.
- C. An attitude.
- D. A relationship.
- E. Unselfishness.
- F. Kindness.
- G. Forgiveness.
- H. Serving others.
- I. Other.

4. What childish things have you put away since your childhood?

- A. Me first—always being egocentric.
- B. Simplicity.
- C. Lots of play time.
- D. Respect for authority.
- E. Temper tantrums.
- F. Saying what you think.
- G. Full abandonment in the moment.
- H. Other.

5. What's something you won't see clearly 'til you see Jesus face-to-face?

- A. Jesus.
- B. Unexplainable loss.
- C. Why bad people always seem to succeed.
- D. The future.
- E. When God seems inconsistent.
- F. Why you were “dealt the cards” you have.
- G. Time.
- H. Injustice.
- I. Other.

6. What makes “faith” and “hope” so important they are put with love?

- A. They are extremely important.
- B. They don't even come close to love.
- C. They are critical components of love.
- D. They form the key elements of the Trinity.
- E. They provide our connection to the supernatural.
- F. They come from the core of our being.
- G. Paul just had to come up with something.
- H. Other.

7. What do you consider to be the important elements of love?

8. Where have you seen or experienced *1 Corinthians 13* love?

Worship Service

OPENING QUESTION

Do you prefer a church service that is overly controlled or out of control?

READ 1 Corinthians 14:1–40.

1. Which spiritual gifts are valued the highest in your church?

- A. What are spiritual gifts?
- B. Preaching and Teaching.
- C. Music.
- D. Community service.
- E. Behind-the-scenes helping.
- F. Anything up front.
- G. Giving.
- H. Ministries for children and youth.
- I. Other.

2. What “church talk” would people not in your church find foreign?

- A. Happy Sabbath.
- B. Power in the blood.
- C. We have “the truth.”
- D. Spirit of Prophecy.
- E. Remnant.
- F. The song “Side by Side We Stand.”
- G. The name of your church’s summer camp.
- H. “GC” or other acronyms.
- I. Other.

3. What’s an example of being “in the Spirit” others might not understand?

- A. Singing when no one is around.
- B. Praying with sounds that aren’t typical words.
- C. My form of dancing before the Lord.
- D. Tears, sobs, and even groans.
- E. Uncontrollable laughter.
- F. I sense things that I won’t share with anyone else.
- G. A clear, personal conviction no one else seems to have.
- H. Receiving a vision or dream from God.
- I. Other.

4. What prophetic message would reach unbelievers now?

- A. Something based on current events.
- B. Simply Jesus.
- C. A social Gospel that actually helps the marginalized.
- D. The abundant life that Christ offers.
- E. Daniel and Revelation.
- F. How to deal with death and loss.
- G. Power more than information.
- H. Other.

5. What part of your church service strengthens people the most?

- A. Sermon.
- B. Music.
- C. Offering.
- D. Children's story.
- E. Announcements.
- F. Prayer.
- G. Interaction after the church service.
- H. Welcome.
- I. Other.

6. "Women should be silent in church" (vs. 34). This means:

- A. Women should be seen and not heard.
- B. Women shouldn't be ordained as elders.
- C. No female preachers.
- D. Women shouldn't shout to their husbands sitting in the men's section.
- E. Women should run the Sabbath Schools for children.
- F. Paul had issues with women.
- G. They should talk in the foyer, not in the sanctuary.
- H. Other.

7. Describe the ideal church service. Who would want it that way?

8. Why does God give his people spiritual gifts when they can't seem to even worship Him properly?

Resurrection

OPENING QUESTION

When did death first become real to you?

READ 1 Corinthians 15:1–58.

1. Which of the following things about Jesus amazes you the most?

- A. Jesus died for my sins.
- A. The resurrection.
- B. How some didn't believe the resurrection happened.
- C. The people he chooses as his instruments.
- D. His active presence now through the Holy Spirit.
- E. His resurrection paves the way for my resurrection.
- F. Mercy.
- G. Christ's love for me.
- H. Other.

2. When are Christ's followers resurrected?

- A. The moment they accept Jesus as their Savior.
- B. They have to die first.
- C. At Christ's Second Coming.
- D. At Christ's Third Coming (after the millennium).
- E. It's not going to happen.
- F. No one knows for sure.
- G. When Christ was resurrected.
- H. When Christ hands over the kingdom to God the Father.
- I. Other.

3. How does your belief in the resurrection affect the way you live now?

- A. It doesn't.
- B. I'm willing to take more risks now.
- C. I get into debates with those who don't believe in the resurrection.
- D. I'm not sure I believe this resurrection stuff.
- E. It buoys my hope.
- F. I share the good news of the resurrection with others.
- G. Funerals and memorial services are different for me.
- H. I trust God to do things that seem impossible to me.
- I. Other.

4. If there is no resurrection, we are to be pitied (vs. 19). Do you agree?

- A. Absolutely—I'm living for heaven.
- B. My life on earth now with Jesus is wonderful.
- C. Even if there wasn't a resurrection, I'd follow Jesus for my earthly life.
- D. Paul suffered a lot more persecution than I do.
- E. I'm not sure.
- F. Others can pity me, but I don't pity myself.
- G. Only for those who now suffer, really suffer, for Christ.
- H. Other.

5. Paul wrote that he faced death daily (vs. 31). How is this true for you?

- A. It could happen to me anytime.
- B. I do have health issues.
- C. This rarely enters my mind.
- D. Each day I give my life to God, which means I die to Christ daily.
- E. Paul caused riots; I don't.
- F. I'm not paranoid.
- G. I can relate to Paul.
- H. Other.

6. What might be useless (NLT) or done in vain (NIV) for the Lord (vs. 58)?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Cleaning up after a church event.
- C. Feeding teens in the youth group.
- D. The small amount you give in offerings.
- E. Church committees.
- F. Sticking with the church I'm at now.
- G. Prayer.
- H. Evangelistic meetings.
- I. Other.

7. Upon what do you base your belief that Jesus Christ has been resurrected?

8. When have you felt the sting death brings?

Good Bye Money

OPENING QUESTION

Are you more likely to donate money a little at a time or one big gift?

READ 1 Corinthians 16:1–24.

1. Why set apart money for God's people in another part of the world?

- A. I don't give money for people in other parts of the world.
- A. I have a lot more than many people in some parts of the world.
- B. Somebody made me aware of the need, so I'm responding now.
- C. My love for God compels me to do this.
- D. It's a spiritual discipline for me.
- E. I don't like what God's people do with my donations here.
- F. I feel guilty if I don't.
- G. It actually does more good for me than it does for them.
- H. Other.

2. When do you set apart money for God?

- A. Whenever I feel like it.
- B. After I get my paycheck or some influx of money.
- C. When I have money left over after I've paid my bills.
- D. The first day of the week.
- E. The last day of the week.
- F. I don't.
- G. When there is a cause I believe in.
- H. When God happens to get my attention.
- I. Other.

3. What follow up do you do with the gifts you give to God?

- A. Once I've given the money, I let God follow up on it.
- B. It leads me to pray more for the cause I've given to.
- C. I encourage others to give as well.
- D. I request reports from the entity that receives the gifts.
- E. It's no longer any of my business because it was a gift.
- F. I've gotta have a tax-deductible receipt.
- G. I give again, and again, and again.
- H. I make sure there is an audit with financial accountability.
- I. Other.

4. Who would you like to come and spend some time with your church?

- A. A popular Christian speaker who's really inspiring.
- B. An evangelist who really leads people to accept Christ.
- C. Somebody from church headquarters.
- D. A returning missionary.
- E. Someone who would help us with our church financing and giving.
- F. My favorite preacher.
- G. A person of prayer.
- H. Other.

5. Why are young people sometimes treated badly by a church?

- A. Sometimes young people make stupid choices or behave badly.
- B. Sometimes adults are highly judgmental.
- C. Adults often expect youth to act like adults instead of youth.
- D. Church leaders associate a church's short-comings with their youth.
- E. It's a push back after spoiling them too much.
- F. Young people usually take more from a church than what they give.
- G. The youth expect everything to be given to them instead of earning it.
- H. Other.

6. What does "Maranatha" (found only in *1 Cor 16:22*) mean to you?

- A. Not much.
- B. A praise music group with recordings.
- C. A mission agency that offers short-term mission trips.
- D. Literally: "Jesus is coming."
- E. Literally: "Come Lord Jesus."
- F. It gets used in the name for some churches or ministries.
- G. Why does the Greek New Testament have an Aramaic word?
- H. Other.

7. What wide open door has God given you (in spite of possible opposition)?

8. When have you been treated well because you were associated in some way with someone else?

