

Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | August 21, 2022

Begin with Scripture and prayer (5 minutes).

Read Psalm 37 to begin your time together. As we continue in our sermon series, use this passage to instill in your group a posture of trust in your Heavenly Father.

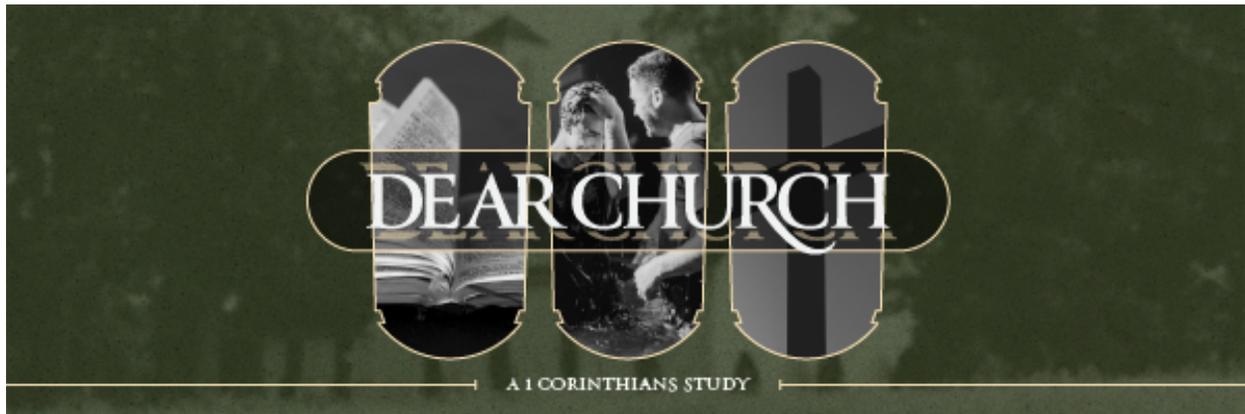
Once you have finished reading, pause for a few moments to allow David's words to sink in. After your moments of silence, pray for your group time together.

Read Scripture and debrief the sermon (40 minutes).

Select a few of these questions to help you dialogue about the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.

Take a few moments to split off into triads. In those triads, discuss the following:

- **Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-8.**
- What is the problem Paul is addressing in these verses? What verses specifically bring you to that conclusion?
- What reasoning does Paul give in these verses for why followers of Jesus should go to one another to pursue reconciliation instead of the pagan law courts?
- According to **verse 6 and verse 8**, what is the relational dynamic that followers of Jesus are to have with one another? How should that have impacted how the Corinthians relate to each other?
- What two questions does Paul pose to the Corinthians in **verse 7**? How do those questions shape how Christians should relate to one another?
- **Read 1 Peter 2:19-23.** How does Peter's description of Jesus and his disposition to the world relate to how Christians are to treat one another as described by Paul in the 1 Corinthians text?
- **Read Matthew 18:15-17.** How do these verses relate and expound upon what Paul says in 1 Corinthians and impact how Christians should deal with discord?



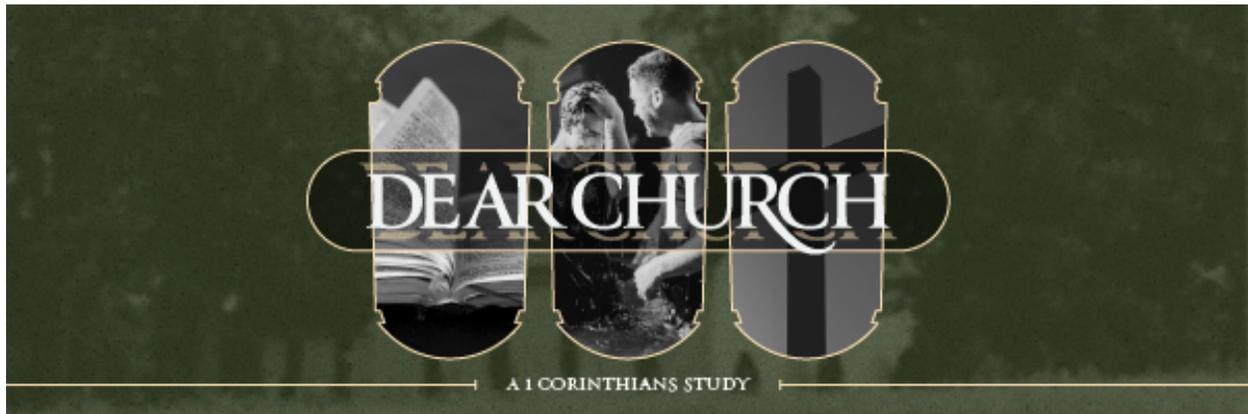
Once finished with those questions, come back together as a large group.

- What stood out from your mini-group discussions about this text?
- What is something new or fresh from this weekend's sermon you learned? What from the message challenged you personally?
- How do you handle conflict? How does conflict make you feel?
- How did your family of origin handle conflict? In what ways has your conflict management style stemmed from them?
- Without oversharing, when was a time in your life you had conflict or discord with another Christian? Was that situation handled in a Christ-like way? What feelings did you have in the moments of conflict? What could you have done better in that scenario to emulate Christ more accurately?
- In his sermon, Dan mentioned several reasons why Christians should seek out other Christians for help in reconciliation with others: (1) Because Christians have the Holy Spirit, they should be able to provide godly wisdom; (2) Because going outside of the Christian community ruins our testimony about Jesus; (3) Because that is not how God wants his children to behave; (4) Because this is not how Jesus taught us to behave; and (5) Because we are God's children who can trust in our Heavenly Father to protect and provide for us. Which of these reasons resonates with you the most? Which do you find most convicting?
- Based on your time studying **1 Corinthians 6:1-8**, when it comes to conflict in your family and in your life group, how would you describe what a Christlike conflict management process might look like? How would you like to see that conflict management done in those two areas?
- What is a tangible application point for you this week based off this passage?

Split into accountability groups (30 minutes).

Take some time to split into gendered groups. When you do, talk through the following questions. After each person shares, pray over them.

- How are you...really?
- Stemming from your conversation on sin last week, how are you doing in that area of your life?
- How has your time in prayer been lately?
- What Scriptures have been resonating with you lately?



- How can this group be praying for you?

Come back together as a large group. Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

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

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

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