

Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | October 30, 2022

Begin with an icebreaker (10 minutes).

What's your biggest pet peeve?

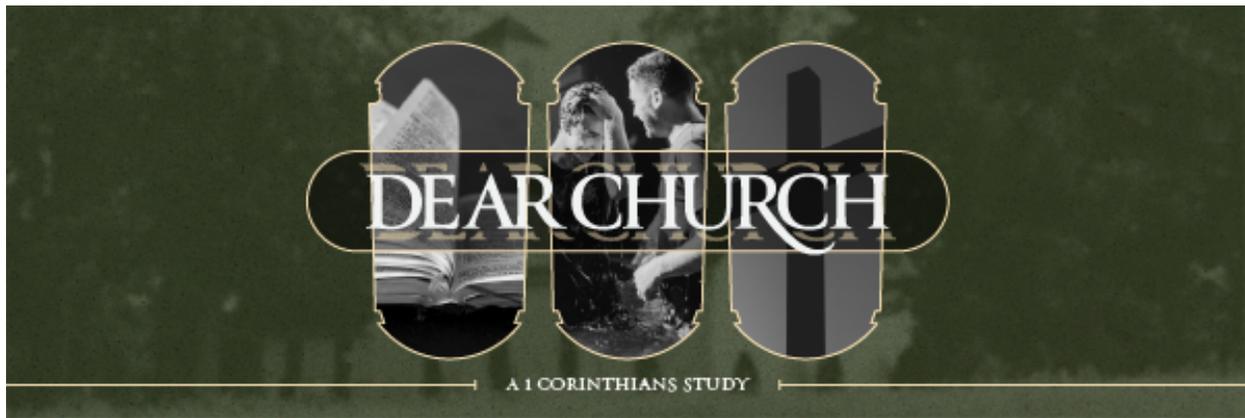
After your icebreaker, open with prayer (5 minutes).

Take a few minutes to acknowledge God's presence as you begin your group time. Ask Him to lead your group to a good discussion and to help the Scriptures sink into your lives.

Read 1 Corinthians 8 and debrief the sermon (40 minutes).

Select a few of these questions to help you discuss the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions for your own specific group to discuss.

- In what areas do you like to get your own way? What are the things that throw you for a loop when you don't get your way?
- Emerson pointed out that ***giving away your life*** is greater than ***getting your way in life***. Is there a time you can remember thinking the other way around? Do you still have an area of life where you'd rather get your own way?
- **Read Philippians 2:6-8.** Based on this passage, how did Jesus give away his life instead of demanding his own way?
- What does it mean to give up your rights on behalf of others? How is that similar to or different from your approach to life?
- What is your "food sacrificed to idols" – those areas in your life in which you feel freedom, but that you might need to consider letting go of for the sake of loving others?
- **Read Galatians 5:13-14.** How does that Scripture inform what you read in 1 Corinthians 8? How does it inform the way we love and serve one another?
- What gifts has God given you that you can use to love and serve others?
- "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." What is your reaction to that statement? When have you seen people use their knowledge to puff up, control, or manipulate a person or situation?
- When have you used your freedom to puff up rather than build up?
- What could happen to the Church as a whole if we set down our freedoms and knowledge for the sake of unifying and building up fellow believers?



- What practical steps can we take to set down our “food sacrificed to idols” for the sake of each other?

Take a moment to pray individually (5 minutes).

As you wrap up your group time, end with the bow prayer that Emerson shared at the end of his message. Give five minutes of silence for people to reflect on this question: *How can my relationship with God grow so that the third prayer would be true of me?*

1. I am a bow, in your hands, Lord, draw me, lest I rot.
2. Do not overdraw me, Lord, I shall break.
3. Overdraw me, Lord, and who cares if I break!

Share your reflections with your group (10 minutes).

Ask your group the following questions and allow space for people to respond:

1. Which of those three prayers most closely reflects your current season of life?
2. How did you respond to the question asking how your relationship with God could grow to more closely resemble the third prayer?

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.