

Series: All Things Rise	Reference: 1 Corinthians 1:27	Title: Sown in Weakness	Date: 4.14.19
-----------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------	-------------------------

Community Group Questions

Take time to pray through the Six:Eight Prayer Foci for 2019

*If the Holy Spirit gives anyone a specific word for the church
share them with the other Community Group Leaders.*

1. **FREEDOM:** Pray against spiritual attack on our church body & its members, so that kingdom ministry goes unhindered.
2. **SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION:** Pray we'd abide in the Presence of Christ, honoring the Word & Spirit of God, being transformed & becoming more effective in witness. That we'd be drawn deeply into worship & prayer in powerful ways this year.
3. **LEADERSHIP:** Pray for leadership to be filled with the knowledge of the Word & power of the Spirit, operating out of the two as gracious strong servant leaders.
4. **MINISTRIES:** For all 8 church ministries to run smoothly, having all current & future resources provided for them to thrive (*Kids, Community Groups, Kingdom Opportunities, Stewardship, Impressions, Worship Arts, Prayer, Missions*).
5. **LOCAL EVANGELISM:** That we'd preach the Word boldly & minister in the power of the Spirit to see people come to faith & publicly declare that through baptism. - for divine openings with neighbors, coworkers, friends & Community Partners.
6. **CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION:** To be a 'House of Prayer for all Nations' (Isaiah 56:7), obedient to the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20), overflowing to our Kinship Network relationships reaching Arab world Muslims, and other mission endeavors of the church.
7. **GIVING:** Pray that we'd be stretched in faithful giving of our financial resources in order not to be hindered in our kingdom ministry as a church.

“If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle & respectful way.” (1 Peter 3:15-16)

Study Questions

1. **ICEBREAKER:** One person gives their testimony! Listen to their story quietly, then spend a minute in silent prayer before the Holy Spirit about it. Allow the Spirit to speak into what was said, then share anything of encouragement with that person.
2. Do a Lectio Divina reading of 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. What words, phrases or thoughts stand out to you? What is this passage saying to the Corinthians, and why?
3. At the time of this writing, **Jews demanded miraculous signs.** The gospels record that the Jews repeatedly requested signs from Jesus to prove he was from God (Matt. 12:38–39; John 2:18; 6:30 - read these). Yet, even the miracles he performed did not satisfy them because he would not perform at their bidding. They reasoned that the true Messiah would provide whatever proof the Jews required. For this reason, many Jews rejected Jesus.
4. Paul also pointed out that **Greeks look for wisdom.** By and large, the Greeks (many Corinthian believers were Greek) did not demand miracles to corroborate the gospel. Instead, they exalted the standards of their pagan philosophies and poets. Ancient Greece was well known as the seat of many influential philosophers. The Greeks took great pride in their philosophical sophistication. Their loyalties were not primarily to the empirical, but to that which was rational according to their own fallen standards. Many Greeks also rejected the gospel because it did not meet their standards of human wisdom.
5. How does the Cross of Christ demolish these demands for miraculous signs & worldly wisdom?
6. How are we, or those in our culture like either the Jew or the Greek of that time? What do we demand? What are the things we trust in?
7. Does it make you uncomfortable to be seen as foolish relying on the message of the Cross? Can you say the same as Paul in 1 Ti 1:15–16, or 2 Corinthians 12:9–10?
8. Jewish peoples struggled to see a true Messiah in one who was crucified as found in Deuteronomy 21:23 (read). But why did Christ have to go to the cross? What was it's accomplishment, how is the Cross the wisdom of God?
9. Read Exodus 3:10-4:17 what's evident about God & Moses in this interaction? God asked, “What's in your hand?” What's in your hand that God might use to His glory?
10. How does Ephesians 3:17-21 make you feel, or apply to your life? Are you growing in these ways?