



January 28, 2018 Discussion Guide

Contrast: *Humble Servant Leaders*

I Corinthians 4:11-17

Introduction:

Paul picks up in 1 Corinthians 4 right where he left off in chapter 3 by challenging the church in Corinth to move beyond their petty arguments, and prepare for the challenging journey ahead. God's grace is a heart-warming thing to experience. It's life-changing. The reality that the world will not be very kind or receptive to our new purpose in life is a lot harder to swallow. If we are going to navigate the challenges ahead we need to grow in our ability to be humble servant leaders.

Discussion Questions

1. Has anyone in the group ever had a horrible travel experience? A delayed flight, transatlantic trip stuck in the middle seat, or missed their connection? Share some travel stories and what made them so frustrating.
2. Why might the Corinthian believers felt like their flight (or their faith) was being re-routed after reading 1 Corinthians 4?
3. Read Philippians 2:5-8 aloud as a group, then read 1 Corinthians 4:9-13. How do you think Paul would explain to a new believer what they should expect in the life of following Jesus?
4. After answering question 3 discuss as a group, why American churches might struggle to embrace Paul's description of the daily life of a Christ follower? In what ways do you feel Parkside can grow in how we embrace our calling?
5. Read Hebrews 4:15 aloud to the group. How can we be encouraged and strengthened by the truth that Jesus himself endured great temptation and suffering for our sake? How does Jesus' life provide both an example and encouragement for us?



Moving Forward:

In the second half of 1 Corinthians 4, Paul says he is their spiritual father and that he is sending them Timothy to be an example for them as well. Who are the examples that you are following in your life? Do you have active relationships with people that act as spiritual parents to you? As a group share who those people are, and if you can't come up with a firm answer commit yourself this week to pursue that type of relationship.