

Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | November 27, 2022

Open with prayer and an initial reflection question (10 minutes).

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

Share with one another how your time over the holidays were.

Then, ask: "What initially brought you to The Creek? What keeps you here?"

Read 1 Corinthians 14 aloud for your group and debrief the sermon (40 minutes).

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

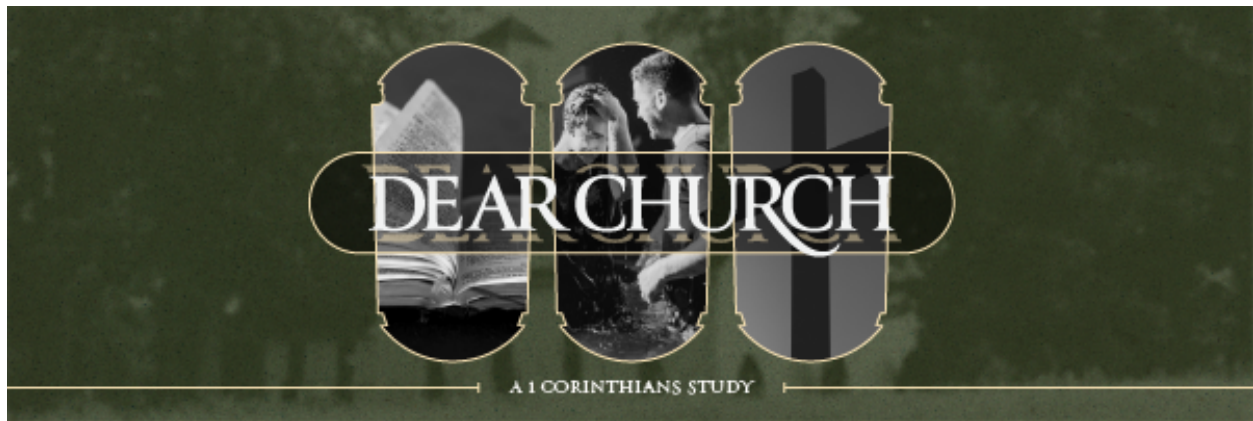
- This text deals with experiencing the Holy Spirit. What are the specific ways the Spirit is experienced that Paul talks about in this chapter? What are the guidelines that he puts around those expressions of life in the Spirit?
- Have you ever prayed "in tongues" or "prophesied?" Have you ever known someone who has experienced those gifts?
- What do you make of those gifts? Do you have a longing for them? Skepticism toward them? Bewilderment over them? Explain.
- When has the Holy Spirit moved in your life? What keeps you from being open to the Spirit's work in your life?
- Read **1 Corinthians 14:25**. What evidence is present in your life group that if someone were to look at it from the outside, they would say, "God is really among you!"?
- Look up the following passages: **Acts 2:1-4; Acts 4:8; Acts 6:3-5, 8-10; Acts 8:26-40; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 13:1-5**. After you read each passage ask, "What kinds of experiences take place in the book of Acts that show us what occur when believers are in tune with the Holy Spirit?"
- In his sermon, Dan gave us a challenge. He said, "Our problem isn't that we have so many people in our worship services who are moved by the Spirit that it's a distraction [like in **1 Corinthians 14**], our issue is that we don't have enough people moved by the Spirit." Based on this challenge, **1 Corinthians 14**, and those readings in the book of Acts, what would it look like for you and your group to lean more into life in the Spirit?



Break into gendered accountability groups (20 minutes).

During this time, use the following questions from John Wesley to diagnose where you're at spiritually. Don't overthink your answers – just answer honestly and authentically. This shouldn't be used to judge one another, but as a tool to help us grow!

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| 1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite? | 12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time? |
| 2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate? | 13. Do I disobey God in anything? |
| 3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence? | 14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy? |
| 4. Can I be trusted? | 15. Am I defeated in any part of my life? |
| 5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits? | 16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful? |
| 6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying? | 17. How do I spend my spare time? |
| 7. Did the Bible live in me today? | 18. Am I proud? |
| 8. Do I give it time to speak to me every day? | 19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican? |
| 9. Am I enjoying prayer? | 20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it? |
| 10. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith? | 21. Do I grumble or complain constantly? |
| 11. Do I pray about the money I spend? | 22. Is Christ real to me? |



Once you've finished, ask each person to share one thing that stood out to them from this exercise that they'd like prayer for. Then, pray for that person.

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.