

The Wisdom in Foolishness 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

18 For the message of the cross is **foolishness** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made **foolish** the wisdom of the world? **21** For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the **foolishness** of what was preached to save those who believe. **22** Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, **23** but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and **foolishness** to Gentiles, **24** but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For the **foolishness** of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. **27** But God chose the **foolish** things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. **28** He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, **29** so that no one may boast before him. **30** It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. **31** Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

NOTES

Small Group & Personal Bible Study:

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:18

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Daily Meditation Reading:

Stories of Complete Foolishness "The Power of God on Display"

Day 1: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (The Message of the Cross)

Day 2: Joshua 6 (Joshua & The Walls of Jericho)

Day 3: Judges 6 & 7 (Gideon's Army)

Day 4: 1 Samuel 17 (David & Goliath)

Day 5: 1 Kings 18 (Elijah on Mt Carmel)

Discovery Bible Study Exercise: In your journal or on a piece of paper make three columns and follow these steps:

- Step #1: Write out **1 Corinthians 1:18**
- Step #2: Re-write **1 Corinthians 1:18** in your own words
- Step #3: Write out something you discover from this passage and how God wants you to respond in obedience to this passage.

Lesson Questions:

1. Complete the discovery method above for 1 Corinthians 1:18. Share what you have discovered from this verse.

2. How has the message of the cross become the power of God in you?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26. Why do you think Paul is reminding us as followers of Jesus that we were not wise, influential or noble by birth when we were called by the Lord?

4. Someone once said, "God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things." How would you respond to that quote?

5. Of all the stories you read this week in your daily study, what is the message did you come away with?