

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.

Take the time to remind people of the discovery method listed above and then allow time to complete the exercise and then ask everyone to share what they discover in this passage.

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

Our friend and brother in Christ, Greg Hobbs passed away this week and that is a vivid reminder to me that there is power in the message of the cross. While the world thinks the cross is foolishness those of us who believe find power in the hope it brings. This is never more apparent than when a believer dies and we can search and find an inexpressible hope in Jesus.

In the same way, I have seen the power of God on display through the hope of the cross in so many ways. For example, when we have worked with men at the shelter struggling with sin, addiction, guilt, fear... it is when they finally understand and experience the power of Christ’s saving work on the cross that they then also experience the power of God at work in them to overcome and become more than conquerors.

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?

I believe to those of us who would be proud he is humbling us and to those who would be fearful he is reminding us that it is not about us but about Christ and the power of God at work through the cross. We should stand in **humble boldness** (that sounds like an oxymoron) for Christ and for the work of the cross so that all may hear the message.

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

It is not about me, it is about God. God can and will use your life fully submitted to him regardless of your abilities and regardless of your weakness. He often uses the most unlikely candidates to do the most amazing things for His Kingdom so that every eye will look to Him and Him alone and we all know that it is God at work.

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

Encourage people to share from one of the stories (or offer up another). Each of these stories shows the power of God and how it looks like foolishness to the world but when we believe and obey He does amazing things.

- Joshua took down the walls of Jericho in a way that would be obviously foolish to the world but it worked.
- Gideon went to war against a vast army with only 300 people carrying trumpets, jars, and torches when he could have had many soldiers with swords and that would make the world want to say “huh”? But it worked.
- David, a young man without armor and only a slingshot went to fight a giant that the biggest and bravest of warriors refused to go head to head against. That made his own family think he must be crazy. But God used him to overcome the giant.
- Elijah took on the Prophets of Baal in a contest and he made sure all the odds were stacked against him so that when God did his thing everyone knew it was God.