

URBAN

ONE CORINTHIANS

JESUS

→ Small Group Study, Lesson 1

The Apostle Paul came to Corinth after a wave of tough situations. He had been beaten, falsely imprisoned, stoned, left for dead, pursued from city to city, and finally dismissed by the intellectuals of Athens. Yet, Paul forged ahead. He was driven by the deep desire for others to know the redeeming and life changing power of the Gospel of Jesus. Paul was captured by the love of Christ and it is with this new understanding of God he moves into uncharted spiritual territories to establish churches among those who have not heard of Jesus.

Have you ever been a part of something new? A club on campus, a new business, a church plant, a new ministry... What made the experience enjoyable? What made the experience difficult? Would you do it again?

Just Getting Started

→ Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Who was the book written to?
Who wrote the book?

What do you know about Corinth?
What do you know about Paul?

→ Read Acts 18:1-17

This passage is the background for the church that God used Paul to start in the city of Corinth. Does this passage give you any additional information about Corinth that has not already been shared?

What was the emotional, physical and spiritual condition might Paul be in as he comes to Corinth? (Hint – take a look at Acts 16:16 - 17:34 –look over this passage and notice Paul being beaten, imprisoned in Phillipi, verbally attacked in Thessalonica and Berea and eventually marginalized in Athens).

→ Back to Acts 18:1-17

Paul plants a church in Corinth.

What were some of the steps that he took in establishing this church?

How did God provide for his needs during the 18 months he spent in Corinth?

Would you ever be willing to work just enough to meet your most basic needs in order to give the rest of your time to help plant a church? Why or why not?

Or would you more comfortable being part of the church that provides the financial backing for others so they could go plant a church?

What should be the role of the main church that is sending out the church plant?

Why does Paul start in the synagogue? What would be the equivalent for you to Paul going to the synagogue? (hint – it is not Park Community Church)

What does it mean in verse 4 Paul reasoned . . . and tried to persuade the Jews and Greeks? How are you involved in a ministry of persuasion? Should you be? What would this look like?

Do you agree or disagree with this statement --- If God is in the work you are doing then there should not be any persecution involved. It is when God is not in the work that people experience the most persecution.

How does your answer gel with Acts 18?

What are the benefits of church planting for Park? What are the downsides?

→ Studies indicate that: church planting is the best way to include those not currently in a church. The percentage of people serving is much higher in a church plant than in an established church.

Are you more of a pioneer or a settler in your temperament? What keeps you from being more of a pioneer if you are not? What is so appealing about being a pioneer if you are?

Would you be willing to move to support a church plant in the South Loop for instance that Park was doing? Why or why not?

→ Close in Prayer

- Pray for the 2.9 million people who live in the city limits of Chicago.
- Pray for the many who do not yet know Jesus Christ.
- Pray for your part in planting churches in the city of Chicago and around the world



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