

God's Beautiful Messy Church
Week's Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-21
Discussion Guide: April 3, 2022

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? -1 Corinthians 3:16

How was your life centered on the great commission?

OPEN:

- What stood out from this past week's reading?
- Who in your life, by way of their example, challenges you to live a better (Christian) life?

READ and ASK: 1 Corinthians 4:1-21

- How did Paul want the Corinthians to regard Christian leaders?
- Who did Paul think he was ultimately responsible to?
 - o How would we do well to do the same?
 - o How can this idea be abused?
- In light of verse 7, what do you have that you did not receive from God? Of everything God has given you, what do you tend to take credit for yourself?
 - o How do you think the Corinthians were doing this (see 1:7)?
- What point is Paul making in 4:8-13?
 - o How do you think Paul would react to the statement, "God wants you to be happy, healthy and successful"?
- What qualities of Paul should we imitate?
 - o How is "modeling" a powerful tool in making disciples (4:16)?
- How do you react to the statement, "the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power"?
- What do we learn about Christian leadership and discipleship from this text?

APPLY:

- Paul sarcastically compares his situation with the Corinthians', who have a mistaken idea of wisdom and power. Would you characterize your Christian life as more like the Corinthians' or Paul's? Why?
- How comfortable are you with the idea of being imitated (in your Christian walk)? Why?
- Is your Christian life more a matter of talk or power? Why do you say that?
 - o Next Step: How do you need to "walk the talk" this week?"

Memory Work:

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. - 1 Corinthians 1:20

Next Week's Reading:

1 Corinthians 5:1-13