

God's Beautiful Messy Church  
Week's Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23  
Discussion Guide: June 26, 2022

**CHECK UP:**

Memory Work Review:

*For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!* – 1 Corinthians 9:16

What opportunities did you have to make sacrifices for the spiritual growth of someone else this past week? Did you "waive" any rights this past week?

**OPEN:**

- What stood out from this past week's reading?
  - o What do you still have questions about?

**READ and ASK: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Luke 19:1-10, Luke 5:27-32, Matthew 11:19, Philippians 2:3-8**

- To what extent did Paul go to bring salvation to people?
  - o To what extent should or shouldn't we go?
  - o What traditions/grey areas could (and even should) be given up in order to reach lost people?
- Far too often Christians use formulaic approaches to reaching the gospel (such as gospel tracks). How does Paul's (and Jesus's) approach here contradict such approaches?
  - o How important is relationship in reaching people with the gospel?

*"Paul's model far more closely approximates "friendship evangelism"—coming along side and getting to know unbelievers, valuing them as God's creation in his image in and of themselves, and not just as potential objects of conversion. Then as we become familiar with each person's unique hopes and fears, we may contextualize the gospel in such a way as to speak most directly to those concerns." – Craig Blomberg*

- How do you see parallels in the life of Christ, with what Paul teaches in this passage?

**APPLY:**

- How does Paul and Jesus' "aggressive" approach to sharing the gospel challenge you?
  - o How does Paul's "reach people first" mentality challenge your perspective?
  - o How do you live a life that strives to seek and save the lost? (2 Corinthians 5:20)
  
- As a group, reflect and respond to this quote: "I will do everything short of sin to reach people with the gospel."
  - o What person or group of people do you have a burden to reach?
  - o In what way do YOU need to become "all things to all people" to reach them?
  
- NEXT STEP: What step do you need to make towards "becoming all things to all people" as to possibly save some?

Memory Work:

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

- 1 Corinthians 9:22

Next Week's Reading:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27