**Introduction to 1 Corinthians**

You have heard the stories from the Book of Acts. Many of those stories were about a follower of Jesus named Paul. Before he followed Jesus, Paul had been religious leader for the Jewish people. He had persecuted the early church. He even had followers of Jesus killed. One day, He encountered Jesus personally. From then on, Paul was a devoted disciple. He obeyed Jesus by making disciples of his own people (the Jews), and also among other people groups, too (the Gentiles).

Paul made many disciples and helped to start many churches across a large geographic area. Sometimes there were troubles in the churches. If Paul could not visit them to help solve the problems, he wrote letters to give instructions about what to do.

Corinth was a major city in what is now the country of Greece. God birthed many churches in Corinth. These book that you will listen to is called 1 Corinthians. It was actually a letter that Paul wrote to the churches in Corinth to address problems they were facing. Sometimes, you might not understand the issue because it is not one you are facing. Sometimes, you might not understand the issue simply because it happened so long ago. There are some things in this letter that might always remain a mystery simply because the people that this letter originally helped lived 2000 years ago. What you can and should do, is obey those things that you do understand.

Finally, in this letter, Paul wrote about what he allowed women to do in the church. During Paul’s time, many women were the leaders in the religion of the Gentiles. As leaders, the women had led in the worship of idols and other very evil practices such as child sacrifice. These women were now becoming followers of Jesus. They were brand new disciples, but people were still treating these women as religious leaders. They needed to learn a new way to worship the One True God. Therefore, some of Paul’s instructions about women in 1 Corinthians had specific application for that place and that time. When we read all of Scripture, we clearly see that Jesus, and even Paul, respected women and that women have authority to take leadership roles in the church.

You will hear two different voices narrating this letter, but don’t be confused. This is one letter, written by one person, Paul. Listen to each passage three times. After hearing the passage three times, let each person repeat it. Be sure to help each other to get it right.

Then, discuss the passages, using the following questions:

* What do you learn from this passage about God, about Jesus or about the Holy Spirit?
* What do you learn from this passage about people, and about yourself?
* How should you apply this passage to your life in the next few days? Is there a command to obey, an example to follow, or a sin to avoid?
* Truth is not to be hoarded. Someone shared truth with you that has benefitted your life. So, with whom will you share this passage in the next week?

| Filename | Passage | Scriptures |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1Cor1a |  | 1:1-9 |
| 1Cor1b |  | 1:10-17 |
| 1Cor1c |  | 1:18-31 |
| 1Cor2a |  | 2:1-10 |
| 1Cor2b |  | 2:11-16 |
| 1Cor3a |  | 3:1-9 |
| 1Cor3b |  | 3:10-17 |
| 1Cor3c |  | 3:18-4:5 |
| 1Cor4a |  | 4:6-13 |
| 1Cor4b |  | 4:14-21 |
| 1Cor5 |  | 5:1-13 |
| 1Cor6a |  | 6:1-11 |
| 1Cor6b |  | 6:12-20 |
| 1Cor7a |  | 7:1-11 |
| 1Cor7b |  | 7:12-16 |
| 1Cor7c |  | 7:17-24 |
| 1Cor7d |  | 7:25-40 |
| 1Cor8 |  | 8:1-13 |
| 1Cor9a |  | 9:1-14 |
| 1Cor9b |  | 9:15-23 |
| 1Cor9c |  | 9:24-10:13 |
| 1Cor10 |  | 10:14-11:1 |
| 1Cor11a |  | 11:2-16 |
| 1Cor11b |  | 11:17-34 |
| 1Cor12a |  | 12:1-11 |
| 1Cor12b |  | 12:12-26 |
| 1Cor12c |  | 12:27-13:3 |
| 1Cor13 |  | 13:4-13 |
| 1Cor14a |  | 14:1-12 |
| 1Cor14b |  | 14:13-25 |
| 1Cor14c |  | 14:26-40 |
| 1Cor15a |  | 15:1-11 |
| 1Cor15b |  | 15:12-24 |
| 1Cor15c |  | 15:25-34 |
| 1Cor15d |  | 15:35-49 |
| 1Cor15e |  | 15:50-58 |
| 1Cor16a |  | 16:1-11 |
| 1Cor16b |  | 16:12-24 |