

Pastor Dave Patterson
1 CORINTHIANS
Part 2

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

God keeps secrets, and God reveals mysteries.

[1 Corinthians 2.2, NLT]

*For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except **Jesus Christ and him crucified.***

Our God is a God of mysteries. While He conceals our future, He actively shapes our present.

[1 Corinthians 1.18-23, NLT]

*The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent." So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. **Since God in***

his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

[1 Corinthians 1.24-31, NLT]

But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength. Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."

[1 Corinthians 2.1-10]

*When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. I came to you in weakness —timid and trembling. And my message and my preaching were very plain. **Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.** Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this*

*world, who are soon forgotten. No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God —his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. **For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets.***

Recognize our inability apart from the power of God. No matter what trial you are a part of, you are positioned for the power of God, if you just lean into His grace.

[Deuteronomy 29.29]

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

You can't move forward in God with just an earthly wisdom.

[Daniel 2.21-22]

*God controls the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. **He reveals deep and mysterious things** and knows what lies hidden in darkness, through he is surrounded by light.*

[Daniel 2.28]

*There is a God in heaven **who reveals mysteries.***

Why does God keep secrets and hold our future in mystery?

1. To grow in faith requires walking in mystery

We have a downpayment of the deposit of the Holy Spirit.

2. Living in the mystery combats pride and produces humility
The mystery keeps us leaning in, broken, and humble.

How do we grow in understanding the secrets and mysteries of God?

[1 Corinthians 2.10]

*But God has revealed these things **by His Spirit**. For His Spirit searches out everything and **shows us God's deep secrets**.*

We understand the secrets and mysteries of God...

1. By Walking in the Spirit

[Galatians 5.16]

*I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

2. Through consistent growth in our spiritual journey

[1 Corinthians 2.6-7]

***Yet when I am among mature believers**, I do speak with words of wisdoms, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some circumstances that seemed foolish to others originally, but brought great results in the end?
2. When was a time that you were frustrated or challenged because God was withholding certain information in a season of your life? What was He doing in you during that time?

- 3. Why does the Bible state that the wisdom of God is unattainable through just human understanding? What are some examples in our world where people try to provide an earthly understanding of the LORD?**
- 4. How is the "veil removed" and the mystery revealed in God's Kingdom? What are steps that we can take to position ourselves to receive God's wisdom?**
- 5. When the Holy Spirit gives you wisdom, do you think differently through your decisions? What has that looked like for you?**