

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## WISDOM THROUGH THE CROSS

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1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-2:5

\_\_\_\_\_ looks \_\_\_\_\_.

(1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

\_\_\_\_\_ look \_\_\_\_\_.

(1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

\_\_\_\_\_ look \_\_\_\_\_.

(1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

**ICEBREAKER:** What's a band, movie, or food that you love that most people think is terrible—and you don't care?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5 out loud. Give everyone in the group 3 minutes in silence to write down their own observations of the passage. Then go around the group and have everyone share at least one of their observations and discuss it.
2. In verse 18, the same message, the cross, produces two completely opposite reactions. One group sees foolishness, the other sees the power of God. Why do different people respond so differently to the gospel?
3. Verse 22 says “Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom.” These are two different objections to the gospel. What specifically about a crucified Messiah would trip up each group?
4. Look at the phrase “Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” in verse 24. Paul has just finished saying the cross looks like weakness and foolishness—how does this verse redefine those categories?
5. In verses 27–28, Paul says God “chose” the foolish, the weak, the lowly, and the despised. (He uses the word “chose” three times.) What does it tell us about God that his choice of the “nobodies” was intentional, not a last resort?
6. What are aspects of the Christian message that feel foolish in our culture? What are the reasons you see people rejecting the cross?
7. The sermon pointed out that we're tempted to make the cross more palatable, to sand down its hard edges. Think about a conversation you've had (or avoided) about your faith. Where were you tempted to soften the message? Why did you feel that way?
8. What are some cultural messages that people try to combine with the gospel to make it more appealing to the world?
9. The sermon said, “Part of the reason we're scared of sharing our faith is because we don't actually believe that the God of the universe is pursuing the people around us.” Why is it hard to believe that God is already at work in the lives of the people around you?
10. If someone told you, “I'm afraid I'll look stupid if I talk about Jesus,” how would you respond after studying this passage and hearing this sermon?
11. As we begin the season of Lent, the sermon invited us to give attention to the cross. What is one practice you could adopt over the next six weeks to keep the cross—and what God accomplished through it—at the center of your daily life?

**PRAYER:** Pray for someone who has not surrendered to Jesus to have their eyes opened to the wisdom and power of the cross. Pray for opportunities to share. Pray for boldness to share, even if you feel stupid.