



Some things you should know about this series

Corinth was a wild place for Paul to plant a church in the first century. And in chapters 5-10 of 1 Corinthians, Paul does some straight talking about the culture wars that have crept into their church. No topic is off-limits.

When we look at chapters 6-7 (May 7, 21 & 28) about sex, marriage, and singleness we could play a game of "Who's the most uncomfortable, the preachers or the congregation?" There will be a few weeks where sex is mentioned a lot.

This will be a good series for all of us, from teens to seniors, to hear what God says about these things. The world shows us its values around sex and marriage every day. To have the discussion as a church family might be a little awkward at times, but beneficial. For us to live lives that glorify God in a fallen world we need to listen to God's Word.

Some things to help...

- If you're a parent of teenagers in the service, read ahead and give them some notice about the topic coming up. Even talk to them afterward about what they thought.
- We'll have other resources you can access regarding the subject matters. Petrina, Rosie, Ben, and Ross are also happy to help.

Also, know that every Sunday is a good Sunday to invite friends. The preaching will be sensitive, non-judgemental, and gospel-centred. It will be a refreshing change from the culture wars around us.

To get the most out of this book...

These studies are generic - each week it's the same pattern which is based on a tool that people have used for generations to go deeper into God's Word.

So to get the most out of these studies:

1. **Read the text out loud, then re-read it personally, then re-read it again.** As you do you'll start to see the richness of God's word and more and more things jump out at you.
2. **If you have questions - ask them!** Everyone has questions - and Growth Group is the space to ask your questions.
3. **See this model as a tool to read the Bible 1 to 1 with someone.** You can take this pattern of reading and do it with anyone in any book of the Bible.
4. **When you think you've got all the answers and finished - re-read it again.** Life's journey is continually going deeper in God's Word - and we'll never stop finding the riches of the Bible.
5. **Use the prayer guide to help shape your prayers for each other.** This helps us think through our wholehearted devotion to God, our loving relationships, the application of the study, the mission we're on and any big or small things going on in our life. It's also a great way to learn to pray if you've never prayed before.

Study 1: Who are you to judge

Kick-off question:

Was there something from church on Sunday that encouraged you, made you think, or other highlight?

Read: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Spend 10 minutes thinking through the following questions individually (you might need to read the passage a few times)



What stands out to you?



What questions do you have?



What is the practical and/or spiritual problem that is being addressed?



What's the heart of the passage? Can you sum it up in one sentence?



In what ways is this a potential 'hot issue' in our culture? Why?



What's the application for the original audience? What difference will this make for you this week?

Gather together and share your answers to those questions

Prayer

In your prayer groups, answer the following questions first by yourself then share with your group:

How has God been at work in your life this week?

How is your faith going?

(answers could be: distant, close, intimate, I have doubts, I want more, I'm feeling numb etc... and explore that)

What struck you from tonight?

What can we pray for the people you're on mission to?

Is there anything else in your life you want prayer for?

Prayer points for others

Study 2: My rights vs Your rights

Kick-off question:

Was there something from church on Sunday that encouraged you, made you think, or other highlight?

Read: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Spend 10 minutes thinking through the following questions individually (you might need to read the passage a few times)



What stands out to you?



What questions do you have?



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Study 3: My rights vs God's rights

Kick-off question:

Was there something from church on Sunday that encouraged you, made you think, or other highlight?

Read: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Spend 10 minutes thinking through the following questions individually (you might need to read the passage a few times)



What stands out to you?



What questions do you have?



What is the practical and/or spiritual problem the author is addressing?



What's the heart of the passage? Can you sum it up in one sentence?



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Study 4: Redeeming Sex & Marriage

Kick-off question:

Was there something from church on Sunday that encouraged you, made you think, or other highlight?

Read: 1 Corinthians 7:1-24

Spend 10 minutes thinking through the following questions individually (you might need to read the passage a few times)



What stands out to you?



What questions do you have?



What is the practical and/or spiritual problem the author is addressing?



What's the heart of the passage? Can you sum it up in one sentence?



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Prayer points for others

5 Redeeming Singleness & Marriage

Kick-off question:

Was there something from church on Sunday that encouraged you, made you think, or other highlight?

Read: 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

Spend 10 minutes thinking through the following questions individually (you might need to read the passage a few times)



What stands out to you?



What questions do you have?



What is the practical and/or spiritual problem the author is addressing?



What's the heart of the passage? Can you sum it up in one sentence?



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Prayer points for others

Study 6: Freedom to love

Kick-off question:

Was there something from church on Sunday that encouraged you, made you think, or other highlight?

Read: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Spend 10 minutes thinking through the following questions individually (you might need to read the passage a few times)



What stands out to you?



What questions do you have?



What is the practical and/or spiritual problem the author is addressing?



What's the heart of the passage? Can you sum it up in one sentence?



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Prayer points for others

Study 7: How to use your freedom 1

Kick-off question:

Was there something from church on Sunday that encouraged you, made you think, or other highlight?

Read: 1 Corinthians 9:1-23

Spend 10 minutes thinking through the following questions individually (you might need to read the passage a few times)



What stands out to you?



What questions do you have?



What is the practical and/or spiritual problem the author is addressing?



What's the heart of the passage? Can you sum it up in one sentence?



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What struck you from tonight?

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Is there anything else in your life you want prayer for?

Prayer points for others

Study 9: How to use your freedom 2

Kick-off question:

Was there something from church on Sunday that encouraged you, made you think, or other highlight?

Read: 1 Corinthians 9:24-11:1

Spend 10 minutes thinking through the following questions individually (you might need to read the passage a few times)



What stands out to you?



What questions do you have?



What is the practical and/or spiritual problem the author is addressing?



What's the heart of the passage? Can you sum it up in one sentence?



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HOSPITALITY MONTH

Hospitality in the Greek: 'Philo' to show love to, 'Xenia' a stranger.

 May 2023

 Brisbane City

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