DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 3: A Disciple Grows Up

Main Idea: Built different: disciples mature by the wisdom of the Spirit, not the foolishness of the world.

Discipleship Rhythm: Daily Devotion

1 Corinthians 2:6–3:23

"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought." (1 Corinthians 1:10).

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Gather in groups of three to five people and discuss the Observation and Interpretation sections.

Observation Exercise 1: Source of wisdom

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6–16. Where does wisdom come from? What role does the Holy Spirit play in understanding wisdom?

Suggested Response: Wisdom is sourced in God (v. 7) and imparted through mature believers (vv. 6, 7, 10), by revelation from the Spirit (v. 10). The Spirit reveals God's wisdom because it cannot be discovered by human intellect alone. The Spirit searches the things of God and enables mature believers to understand.

Observation Exercise 2: Signs of immaturity

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1–9. How did Paul describe the spiritual condition of the Corinthian believers? What evidence did he give that they were spiritually immature?

Suggested Response: Paul said the Corinthian believers were spiritually immature. He gave evidence in the labels and contrasts he used to describe them: infants in Christ; contrasting them as people of the flesh and not spiritual people; fed with milk, not solid food; the presence of jealousy and

strife; behaving in a human way; divided according to human leaders rather than unified in God.

Observation Exercise 3: God's people

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10–23. What illustrations did Paul use to describe the church? What warnings and encouragements did he give?

Suggested Response: Paul described the church as a building, a temple, and a field (vv. 3–8). He said Jesus Christ is the only foundation. He warned that each person should build carefully because their work will be tested. He also warned that God's temple is sacred and that the Spirit dwells among them. Paul reminded them not to boast in human leaders because all things were theirs; they belonged to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Interpretation Exercise 1: Need the Spirit

Paul said God's wisdom must be revealed by the Spirit. What is the difference between human knowledge and spiritual wisdom?

Suggested Response: Paul showed that God's wisdom is not something human beings can uncover by intelligence, status, or cultural sophistication. Spiritual wisdom is not the same thing as intellectual information. The rulers of this age failed to recognize the Lord of glory and crucified Him. God's wisdom must be revealed by the Spirit because sin causes people to misread reality and treat the cross as foolish. Disciples grow in wisdom as the Spirit teaches them to understand what God has freely given in Christ and reveals God's purposes. Human wisdom has value in many areas, but it does not produce knowledge leading to saving belief in God.

Interpretation Exercise 2: Connection between division and maturity

Paul connected division within the church to spiritual immaturity. What does this teach us about how spiritual growth is measured?

Suggested Response: Jealousy and quarreling revealed that the Corinthians were still letting the world's wisdom shape their view of themselves, their leaders, and one another. This is being governed by worldly thinking. Although they had received real gifts from God, their relationships showed they were still acting like spiritual infants. Paul wanted them to see that maturity is not measured by knowledge, giftedness, or attachment to respected leaders but by whether the Spirit was teaching them to think and live with the mind of Christ, evidenced by humility and unity and dependence on God for growth.

Interpretation Exercise 3: Why the foundation matters

What does Paul's teaching about building the church reveal to us?

Suggested Response: Paul wanted the Corinthians to see that the church belongs to God and rests on Jesus Christ as its only foundation. Leaders and members may serve, teach, and build, but they do not own the church and cannot replace Christ. Growth within the church, both corporately and individually, comes about only by God. Because God's Spirit dwells among His people, division and careless building are serious. Disciples grow up when they stop boasting in human leaders and learn to build their lives and relationships on Christ.

APPLICATION: HOW DO I RESPOND?

Question 1: Why is it hard to pray and read the Bible every day?

Suggested Response: Responses will vary. Use thoughtful follow-up questions to invite deeper sharing and authenticity. Typical responses are things like: I don't like to read; I don't understand the Bible; I don't have time; it is boring; I'm a guy and reading isn't my thing; I don't know what to do when I read the Bible; devotionals sound feminine; etc.

Question 2: What voices or influences most often shape your thinking?

Suggested Response: I can be influenced by social media, news, entertainment, friends, family expectations, work culture, past experiences, or my own assumptions. Common influences are podcasts, Wikipedia, the news, or ChatGPT. These influences may not always be wrong, but they can become dangerous when they train me to see life differently than God does or to only perceive things disconnected from spiritual realities.

Question 3: What are some signs in your life of spiritual immaturity?

Suggested Response: Spiritual immaturity can show up through jealousy, comparison, quarreling, pride, defensiveness, or needing to be seen as right. A person may know Christian words or a lot of the Bible and still respond to people and life in ways that look more like the world than the mind of Christ.

Question 4: What is our source of spiritual wisdom? How can daily devotion help disciples grow beyond spiritual infancy?

Suggested Response: Our source of spiritual wisdom is God as revealed by the Spirit. The Bible is our primary "source." It is God's revealed Word through the Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16).

Daily devotion gives God's Word, which reveals His wisdom, regular space to challenge and reshape us. As we listen to Scripture and pray honestly, the Spirit exposes what is immature, corrects what is false, and teaches us to respond with the wisdom of Christ rather than the instincts of the world.

Question 5: Paul said one person plants, another waters, but God gives the growth. How does that truth encourage humility and patience?

Suggested Response: This reminds me that I am not the source of spiritual growth in myself or others. I can be faithful to plant, water, serve, encourage, and obey, but God is the One who produces growth. This helps me resist pride when things go well and discouragement when growth feels slow or non-existent.

Question 6: What is one practical step you can take this week to receive God's wisdom through His Word?

Suggested Response: I can set aside a specific time each day to read Scripture, slow down enough to reflect on what it says, write down one truth to carry with me, or pray through a passage before making decisions. The goal is not just to complete a reading plan, but to let the Spirit form the way I think, desire, and live.

The Lakepointe App has a daily Bible reading that is easy to access and connects to the weekend sermon.

Question 7: How can our group help one another grow in the wisdom of Christ rather than stay stuck in immature patterns?

Suggested Response: As a group, we can listen carefully to Scripture together, pray honestly, speak with humility, and resist comparison or competition. We can encourage one another to have a rhythm of reading the Bible daily, not just listening to the weekend sermon and coming to Life Group. We can also encourage one another when we see growth, gently challenge patterns that look more like jealousy or pride, and remind one another that God is the One who gives the growth.