DISCUSSION GUIDE

BUILT DIFFERENT :

“A Disciple Flees Pride”

SCRIPTURE | 1 Corinthians 10:1–11:1

MEMORY VERSE

“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).

MAIN IDEA OF THE TEXT

Built different: disciples pursue Christ and avoid prideful postures.

DISCIPLESHIP RHYTHM

Prayer

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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

OBSERVATION EXERCISE 1: ISRAEL'S PRIVILEGES AND FAILURES

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1–13. Make a list of the spiritual privileges Israel had. What warnings did Paul give from their story?

Suggested Response: Paul said the spiritual ancestors of the Corinthian church had shared spiritual privileges: they were under the cloud of God's presence, were delivered from their oppressors by passing through the sea, were baptized into Moses, ate the same spiritual food of manna, and drank the same spiritual drink of water from a rock. But God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Paul said these things happened as examples and warnings; though they experienced God's power and presence, they were unfaithful to remain dependent on Him. Paul named their downfall: idolatry, sexual immorality, testing Christ, and grumbling. He also warned, "If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" and said God is faithful and will provide a way out when they were tempted.

OBSERVATION EXERCISE 2: FLEEING IDOLATRY

Read 1 Corinthians 10:14–22. What command did Paul give in verse 14? What did he compare Communion with?

Suggested Response: They were commanded to flee from idolatry. Paul contrasted communion with worshipping demons. He said the cup of thanksgiving is a participation in the blood of Christ, and the bread is a participation in the body of Christ. He said, because there is one loaf, believers, who are many, are one body. Paul said sacrifices offered by pagans are offered to demons in acts of worship. He said believers cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too, and they cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

OBSERVATION EXERCISE 3: FREEDOM AND GOD'S GLORY

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23–11:1. What did Paul say about freedom? When should the Corinthians give glory to God?

Suggested Response: Paul said, "I have the right to do anything," but not everything is beneficial or construc-tive. Freedom may be experienced, but it may not be beneficial in all circumstances. To ex-plain this, Paul said no one should seek their own good but the good of others. He told them they may eat meat sold in the market without questions of conscience, and they may eat what is set before them in an unbeliever's home. But if someone said the food was of-fered in sacrifice, they should not eat it for the sake of the other person's conscience.

Paul said, "Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." He said to give glory to God in all things and all circumstances. So, there is something about the way we do something that can bring glory or not bring glory to God. Paul served as an example of bringing glory to God by the way he did things, saying, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

INTERPRETATION EXERCISE 1: PRIVILEGE AND PRESUMPTION

In 1 Corinthians 10:1–13, what warning can we take from Israel's wilderness story?

Suggested Response: Paul warned believers not to confuse spiritual privilege with spiritual safety. Israel experienced God's deliverance, guidance, provision, and covenant identity, yet many still fell into sin and judgment. The Corinthians needed to understand that knowledge, freedom, baptism, the Lord's Supper, or past spiritual experiences did not make them immune to temptation. The same is true for us. Pride says, "I am standing firm, so I do not need to be careful." Faith says, "God is faithful, so I need to depend on Him, listen to His warnings, and take the way of escape He provides."

INTERPRETATION EXERCISE 2: THE DANGER OF DIVIDED ALLEGIANCE

In 1 Corinthians 10:14–22, why did Paul tell believers to flee idolatry?

Suggested Response: Paul taught that idolatry is not harmless. There is no power in the object or the physical things used in sacrifices, but the ritual demonstrates an allegiance to something other than God. The Corinthians might have known idols were not true gods, but meals connected to idol worship still carried spiritual meaning. Paul pointed to Communion to show that worship involves fellowship and allegiance. Believers belong to Christ, so they cannot treat competing loyalties lightly. Paul's command to flee shows that disciples should not trust themselves around things that pull their worship away from God.

INTERPRETATION EXERCISE 3: FREEDOM UNDER GOD'S GLORY

In 1 Corinthians 10:23–11:1, how did Paul help believers decide when to use freedom and when to give it up?

Suggested Response: Paul did not answer every situation with the same rule. Sometimes believers may receive food with gratitude because "the earth is the Lord's." Other times, they should give up that freedom because of another person's conscience or spiritual good. Paul taught that freedom should be guided by better questions than "Am I allowed?" Disciples ask, "Does this honor God?" "Will this build up others?" and "Could this cause someone to stumble?" Freedom is faithful when it is used for God's glory and the good of others.

APPLICATION: HOW DO I RESPOND?

QUESTION 1: Paul warned about a prideful posture regarding temptation. What are some sins most believers think they would never commit?

Suggested Response: Christian confidence is not unfounded. Believers may feel safe because they have been a Christian for a long time, know the Bible, serve in church, have experienced God's faithfulness, or have avoided certain sins in the past. Paul reminded us that confidence is dangerous when it stops depending on God. We need to take temptation seriously, listen to God's warnings, and pray for humility. Common areas are financial fraud, marital infidelity, alcoholism, lying, cheating, or yelling at their kids.

As your group responds, use follow-up questions to guide below surface-level responses. Encourage transparent responses.

QUESTION 2: Israel's story is an example of the drift that often happens before a fall. In what areas of your life could distraction lead to a bigger fall?

Suggested Response: I may need to pay closer attention to what I am starting to excuse, what I complain about most, where I am turning for comfort, or what I am letting shape my desires. Paul's warning helps me notice drift before it becomes disaster. Prayer is one way I bring my heart honestly before God and ask Him to keep me from becoming proud, careless, or divided in my worship.

As your group responds, ask follow-up questions to challenge broad and general responses. Invite your group to get specific.

QUESTION 3: What gets too much of your attention? What can you reprioritize or flee to keep God first in your life?

Suggested Response: I may be trying to manage approval, comfort, success, money, resentment, lust, control, entertainment, or a relationship that pulls my heart away from God. Paul did not say to treat idolatry casually. He said to flee! That means I may need to create distance, confess honestly, ask for help, or stop treating the danger passively.

As your group responds, ask follow-up questions to challenge broad and general responses. Invite your group to get specific.

QUESTION 4: Paul said God is faithful and provides a way out when we are tempted. What might the "way out" look like for you this week?

Suggested Response: The way out may look like praying before I act, leaving a tempting situation, changing what I watch or listen to, calling a trusted friend, confessing sin, setting a boundary, or choosing gratitude instead of grumbling. God's faithfulness does not mean I can be careless. It means I can depend on Him and take the escape He provides.

QUESTION 5: How can prayer help you recognize a prideful posture before it leads to a fall?

Suggested Response: Prayer slows me down and puts me back in a posture of dependence. When I pray, I am admitting I need God's help, wisdom, and strength. Prayer can expose where I am making excuses, ignoring warnings, or assuming I can handle temptation on my own. It helps me return my worship to God before my heart drifts further away. A good prayer is Psalm 139:23–24.

QUESTION 6: In 1 Corinthians 10:23–24, Paul said not everything is beneficial or constructive, even if it is permissible. What is something permissible that may not be best for you? What questions would help you consider others?

Suggested Response: Freedoms like what I watch, what I post on social media, what I drink, how I spend money, how I speak, or how I use my time. Instead of only asking questions like "Am I allowed to do this?", I can ask, "Will this build up others?", "Could this cause someone to stumble?", and "Will this help me honor God?"

QUESTION 7: Pray together Psalm 139:23–24. Ask God to reveal postures of pride.

Suggested Response: Prayer demonstrates our dependence on God rather than our own strength or past spiritual victories. "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."