

Narrabri Weekend Away

Getting Motivated for the Gospel *by the Gospel* The Character of the Cross

Session 2: Discussion Group 1 – Understanding *the Gospel*

1 Corinthians 1:17-24

1. Why might “*words of eloquent wisdom*” empty the cross of its power?
2. Why do the unsaved think the “*word of the cross*” is foolishness?
3. Paul says the same “*word of the cross*” is the “*power of God*” to those who are being saved. How can this “*word*” be powerful? See also 2 Cor 2:15-16
4. Reflecting on Question 1 and 2 again, how does this inform our understanding of what we ought to say when sharing the Gospel?
5. What’s wrong with our own wisdom? V 19-21.
6. Notice verse 21 does not say “*through the folly of preaching*”, but “*through the folly of what we preach*” people are saved. What’s the difference? Why does this matter?
7. Why do you think Jews demand signs? See also Matt 12:38-39
8. How did Paul respond to the Jews desire for “*signs*” and the Greeks desire for “*wisdom*”? v.23 Compare this to how we often try to evangelise to those around us.
9. What are the modern equivalents of “*signs*” and “*wonders*” that people look for with respect to life and truth?
10. If preaching “*Christ crucified*”, as Paul says, is actually “*the power of God and the wisdom of God*” to those who are “*called*”. What should the content of our Gospel communication include?

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ESV

11. Paul was a very capable man, very well educated and of the best Jewish “*stock*”, [See Philippians 3:5 for the reasons he could have put confidence in the flesh]. Why did he not come to the Corinthian church with “*lofty speech*” or words of wisdom?
12. Notice how he wants the Corinthians to only know about Jesus Christ [v2.] and then adds “*and him crucified*”. Why does he add this extra element?

13. Discuss how we try to make Jesus known, and what we try to make known about Jesus?
14. What do you think the difference is between resting our faith in the “*wisdom of men*” and resting it in “*the power of God*”?
15. How might this change the way we relate to people about Christ?