

## SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **June 1, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "Word of the Cross." Please read the sermon passage (1 Corinthians 1:18-25) together out loud.

### Small Group Questions (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

**Sermon Outline:** "The cross may cost you your life, but it should not be hidden."

THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST . . .

1. **Divides, separating the perishing from those being saved** (v. 18)
  - a. The perishing one despises the cross, and even mocks it.
    - 1) They trust their own works instead of the cross OR
    - 2) They suppress the cross by trying to explain it away.
  - b. To those being saved the cross is God's power.
2. **Confronts, challenging the wisdom of the world with God's Word** (vv 19-21)
  - a. Isaiah 29:14: Judah's counselors judged for not consulting God, and turning to Egypt for help.
  - b. God will destroy the world's "wisdom," and he will thwart the world's "discernment."
  - c. God's Word always stands.
3. **Reveals, demonstrating the power and wisdom of God** (vv 22-25)
  - a. The Jews wanted more signs ("If only God would act on my behalf I would believe . . .")
  - b. The Greeks want more wisdom ("If only the world's academics took the Bible more seriously . . .")
  - c. The cross trips up the Jew because it seems shameful; and it underwhelms the Greek with simplicity.
  - d. Don't wait for a rescue from a counterfeit. Christ's cross is the only rescue plan.

### Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Oftentimes, opponents of Christianity want the message of the cross to be more inclusive, but rejecting the cross means rejecting Christ and remaining in one's sin. Do you have an ongoing conversation with someone who "despises" the cross? How can we pray?
2. Based on #1, above: "Religious unbelievers" add their works to Christ's cross. "Secular unbelievers" object to the power of the cross (they think it is irrelevant). How can we confront these two mindsets with grace and love?
3. Based on #2, above: In what ways has trusting the "wisdom of this world" led to trouble in your life? How has God's Word led you into blessing?
4. Based on #3, above: People all around us say they would trust God "If only" he would show them a sign. How do these verses remind us that people who are waiting for a sign are simply rejecting God? What is the sign he has already provided?
5. Based on #3 above: The world seems to want to be rescued by anything or anyone OTHER than God. Are you certain you are trusting Christ alone for salvation?