



## Part 4: Proclaim the Authority Of God's Word

Key Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24, 1 Corinthians 2:1-4  
Sunday, November 19, 2017

*Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're*

*leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group. ~ Pastor Matt*

### **KEY THOUGHT**

Preaching the authority of God's word without apology in the presence of the Holy Spirit brings the glory down.

### **OPEN**

- Whom do you respect most in life? How have you been impacted by their teaching, reproof, corrections and training?
- What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention? What would you like to discuss in regards to the message?

### **DISCUSSION**

- What words come to mind when you hear the word preach? What emotions do you experience?
- How do you approach the preaching experience each week in church? What do you hope happens in that experience? What role has preaching played in introducing you to Jesus Christ?
- Why is it so important that we as Christians and as a church preach Christ crucified above all else? What will happen to our church if we fail to keep Christ central to everything we do?
- According to **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**, what's the message that really matters?
- Why do you believe Paul made a point of simplifying his message and not relying on his extensive training to win people to Christ?
- What does it mean to be a herald of God's Word in our everyday lives?
- How do you identify truths from God's Word that need to be obeyed? Do you benefit from God's Word most often through biblical preaching or your personal study?

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Sometimes our relationship with God can feel complicated. We can become worn out by questions — like 'what is God's will for my life?' or 'how can I please him?' — or we can feel unworthy of God, distant and reluctant to approach him. It's times like this that God lovingly confronts us with the cross. The cross cuts through everything with the simple, stark, beautiful and shocking message that God loves us so much he gave his one and only Son to reconcile us to himself. That's the power and wisdom of God. There is nothing to figure out, nothing to reason through, and nothing that we have to do — or can do — to win God's favor. He has done it all for us, on the cross. When we understand that, and surrender to it, everything else in life falls into perspective.

- When was the last time you surrendered to God and said “your cross is all I need”?
- When was the last time you shared this message — which cuts past all human philosophy and debate — with someone else? What encouragement can we take from Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians when it comes to sharing the gospel?

### **FURTHER STUDY**

Read I Corinthian’s 1:18-24. Some stumble over the gospel, others see it as foolishness, but some respond to it in faith. The ones who respond in faith do so because they have been called by God (verse 24). Look up the verses below and record what they say about those whom God has called.

- Romans 8: 30
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Galatians 5:13
- 1 Peter 5:10
- Jude 1