

***The Surprise of the Cross***

1 Corinthians 2:1–5

April 10, 2022

**Introduction:** What does it tell you that one of the most brilliant minds in history made this his Number One goal: "I want to know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2)? Though it strikes our ears as narrow and anti-intellectual, for Paul it was just the opposite. Because for him this crucified Jesus was opening a breadth of life and a fresh way of thinking that inverts all of the old ways. And he does the same for Paul's sensitive readers today.

**Prayer:** Father, thank you for your sovereign choice to send your beloved Son to become one of us, knowing that without His sacrifice, we would be cut off from you for eternity. As we look together at your holy Word, guide and direct us to find the truth you know we need. Amen.

**Review:** Where did you see faith hope and love in your life this week? How did God fill you with these gifts and direct you to use them?

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 2:1–5

***Discuss:***

1. What is surprising about the Gospel message? When you first heard the Gospel what was your reaction?
2. What is added to the message of salvation by our culture? You may have an easier time seeing what is added to the gospel by other cultures or faith traditions. What do you see?
3. What is the difference between believing a message and being impressed by a messenger? By which are you most easily persuaded?
4. What previous experience with the Spirit's power can you recall? Is this a fond or challenging recollection for you?

**Application:** Think about what it means to have one's faith based on the power of God instead of human wisdom. Which is most durable? Ask God to grow your faith in His power.

**Prayer:** Lord in this Holy Week, help us to stay close to you. May we hold both the joy of your resurrection and the sorrow for its cost well. Amen