

PRACTICING A ONE ANOTHER CULTURE

Small Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Title: Speak the Same Word

Date preached: October 25, 2026

Opening prayer: Our God, we pray that we may enter together into fellowship with you – Father, Son and Spirit – and as we experience fellowship with you, we may also develop fellowship with one another so that we might reflect the love and care for One Another that brings you honor and us joy. Amen

Opening question: If last week's sermon and study prompted you to pray or take action to move from a place of conflict to peace, what were the results?

Sermon Focus: Two weeks ago, we learned that we are called as a community to be in harmony with one another. So, we know that we need to harmonize – but what is the tune? This week as we look into Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, we discover that we have a holy tuning fork – the name of Jesus – that is the root note in our harmony. Our unity as a community is built around Christ. How do we gain this unified understanding of Jesus – His life, his teaching, his suffering, his death, his resurrection? Seeking this unity is easier said than done. Jesus did not promise that it would be easy, but God promises us that we will find him if we seek him wholeheartedly together. (Jeremiah 29:13)

Sermon Question:

- What part of the sermon has stayed with you since Sunday?
OR What challenged, encouraged, or surprised you in the sermon?

Scripture reading: I Corinthians 1:10-13

Optional expanded reading: Acts 18:1-17; John 1:1-18; Hebrews 13:7-8

Scripture Context: Paul founded the church in the city of Corinth (Acts 18:1-17). Paul came to Corinth, a strategic city located on a narrow isthmus between the Aegean Sea and the Gulf of Corinth, after receiving a lukewarm reception in Athens. Corinth, located about 50 miles from Athens, was an influential and wealthy city in the Roman Empire. It was also known as a place of questionable morality, so much so, that according to Holman, a Greek word- 'Corinthianize' was coined to describe living an immoral life. In Corinth, Paul first went to proclaim the gospel among the Jews in the city in the synagogue. (Acts 18:4) As was the pattern in many of the other churches founded by Paul, some Jews believed the good news, but others 'opposed and reviled him' (Ac 18:6), so Paul took his message to the Gentiles. Acts 18:8 tells us that 'many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers and were baptized'. Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half

teaching and nurturing the young church. Eventually the Jewish opposition became strong enough that Paul was hauled before the tribunal and Gallio, the proconsul. Though the proconsul refused to find Paul guilty, Paul departed and returned to Antioch. After Paul left, the church became factionalized. Some in the church were divided over who had baptized them (Paul, Apollos and Cephas [Peter]) were mentioned. Others were factionalized by adherence, or lack thereof, to the law of Moses. It was to this divided church (the Greek word schismata is used in the text which is the origin of the word schism in English) that Paul writes his letter. Paul calls the church to heal their divisions by first coming to agreement about Jesus, the Messiah.

Words in focus: Leyete Pantes (Gk: λέγῃτε πάντες LEG-ee-the PON-tehs) – to speak the same word together. This phrase is found in both sacred and scriptural writings of the time and had a political significance – it was often used in diplomacy to describe warring factions coming to a reconciliation.

Questions:

1. Think of a time recently that you have been quarrelsome. What did you argue about? Was it about important things or trivial things? About core issues or details? About your goals or about your strategies to reach those goals?
2. What do you know about Jesus, the living word? See John 1
3. What do we in this small group agree on about Jesus?
4. How does doing life with other believers help us clarify and enlarge our understanding of God?
5. Where do you learn about Jesus? How do you check your sources to verify that they are trustworthy? Who or what helps you recognize when you are following a sidetrack instead of the way of Jesus?
6. How can you get to know Jesus better?

Sharing life together: How can you know what other members of your church family think about Jesus if you don't talk with one another about Jesus? Try to find an opportunity to have a conversation about Jesus with someone you don't know well.

Closing prayer: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.