

Every Generation

Week 5 | 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 | October 11, 2026

Use this study on your own or with a group. Individuals: write and reflect on the questions. Groups: discuss them together, allowing time for personal reflection.

Begin with prayer.

As you work through the four questions below, ask: What in the passages supports your answers?

Read and notice

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 twice. Follow the gospel from received to handed on, proclaimed, and believed. Then circle each statement about Christ and note the witnesses. Read Psalm 78:1–8. Follow the movement from heard and known to told and tell. What do you notice?

1. Who is God?

What do 1 Corinthians 15:3–10 and Psalm 78:4–7 show you about God? Begin with what happened to Christ, what grace did in Paul, and what Israel remembered about the Lord.

2. What has God done?

Paul does not simply say that Christ died and rose. What does each phrase add: “for our sins,” “according to the Scriptures,” “was buried,” and “appeared”? What are the things of “first importance” that Paul lists in vs. 3–7?

Read verses 12–19. Why does Christ’s actual resurrection matter so much to Paul? What falls apart if it is not true?

3. What do the passages say about who we are?

Who received what from whom in 1 Corinthians 15:1–3 and 11? How was that received gospel still at work among the Corinthians?

Who received what from whom in Psalm 78:3–8? What did they want the coming generation to trust, remember, and do?

Put the passages side by side. What must not change as witnesses and generations change? What must happen in us and through us if the faith is truly being handed on?

4. So what?

Draw two arrows beside your name. Point one toward the people who handed the faith to you. Point the other toward people who see and hear the gospel through you now. Who belongs at each end?

A child welcomes a lonely classmate and talks about Jesus’ love. A student refuses to join in cruelty. A young adult tests inherited beliefs by Scripture. An adult apologizes at home or acts honestly at work. An older adult speaks of hope in grief and keeps learning from younger believers.

Which examples sound like people you know? What would you add? Where do life and words belong together in your home, school, work, church, or community?

Picture this individually: At school, work, or in your neighborhood, someone sees you own a mistake, move toward a lonely person, or remain faithful when it costs you. Later, that person asks why.

How would you answer in a way that names the grace and hope you have received in Christ?

Picture this at home: A child asks the question everyone else avoided. A student names a pressure adults had missed. An adult admits a wrong. An older adult remembers God's faithfulness without hiding the hard parts.

What could each person receive from the others? What could each contribute? If you live alone, who regularly shares this kind of honest conversation with you?

Picture this together as a church: A student prays with an older member. A child's question changes a class discussion. A retiree and a young adult serve a neighbor together. An adult tells the truth about failure and grace.

What would help these become ordinary parts of life at First Pres? Where could you take part now?

After studying the passages today, what might be your next faithful step in response?

This week: Read 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 each morning. Let one phrase shape an ordinary action and a natural opportunity to speak of Christ. Ask someone from another generation what they notice.

For further study, read 1 Corinthians 15:12–28, Psalm 78:1–8 and 65–72, and 2 Timothy 1:13–14; 2:1–2.

From Who I Am to Who We Are

The series now turns from Who I Am to Who We Are. We are not leaving the first movement behind. Everything about who we are together rests on the identity God gives each of us in Christ.

Look back

Called and beloved. By grace, not achievement. United to Christ. Being made like the Son. How does each truth become part of the foundation for our life together?

Look at the passage

Where does 1 Corinthians 15 show a gospel received by particular people and shared by the whole church?

Make the turn

What happens if we try to build Who We Are on age, preference, similarity, or loyalty to the institution rather than on who we are in Christ?

Finish this sentence: Because I am _____, together we can _____.

Closing Prayer

Thank God for those through whom you received the gospel. Confess where your life or silence has obscured it. Ask God to keep our church centered on the crucified and risen Christ and help every generation receive, live, speak, and entrust this hope.