

MESSAGE.

The message of 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 centers on the idea that God saves humanity through the cross, an event the world often views as foolish. This divine strategy redefines wisdom by proving that God's plans remain purposeful even when they seem confusing or counterintuitive to human logic. Because salvation is a gift received through grace rather than an achievement earned through merit, the cross strips away personal pride and replaces it with a culture of humility and love. This shift gives believers a completely new identity that is grounded in Christ rather than individual performance. Ultimately, *the cross is where God rewrites wisdom, reshapes hearts, and restores identity.*

PRAYER.

Lord of All,

You are wise beyond measure. Worldly logic is foolish to You. Guide my heart, Lord, as I appreciate Christ's work on the cross so that I may stand on Your wisdom and be transformed, being made righteous. I am Your child and will live as an obedient child. Amen.

ENGAGE.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

- In verse 18, Paul describes the cross as "folly" to some and "power" to others. What are some specific ways the message of a crucified Savior still looks like "foolishness" to our modern culture?
- Verse 25 states that God's "foolishness" is wiser than human wisdom. When you are in a season of personal confusion, how does the reality of the cross help you trust God's logic over your own?
- Referencing verse 29, in what areas of your life are you most tempted to "boast" or rely on your own achievements rather than God's grace?
- The cross builds a culture of humility and love. How should the "stripping away" of our personal pride change the way we resolve conflicts or serve one another in the church?
- Paul lists wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption as things we find in Christ. Which of these four aspects do you most need to lean into right now to replace a "broken" identity?
- If you truly believed your identity was "received" from the cross and not "achieved" through your work, how would your stress levels or your reaction to a mistake at the office change tomorrow morning?
- Our culture encourages us to "boast" by posting our best moments and achievements. How does 1 Corinthians 1:31 ("Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord") change the way you share your life with others or seek validation from "likes"?
- When someone criticizes you, we often get defensive to protect our "achieved" identity. If your identity is safely "restored" in Christ, how does that give you the security to listen to feedback without feeling like your whole world is crashing?
- We all have a "go-to" source of wisdom when life gets messy (e.g., Google, a specific friend, a certain podcast, or our own gut feeling). How can you practically pause this week to ask, "How does the 'foolish' wisdom of the cross apply to this problem?"

Day 1. The Upside-Down King

Focus: The cross redefines wisdom.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18, 25

- **The Activity:** Ask your child to try and name the strongest people they can think of (superheroes, athletes, etc.). Then, ask them: *"If a king wanted to save the world, would he choose to be powerful and intimidating, or weak and die on a cross?"*
- **The Lesson:** To the world, a King dying on a cross looks like losing. It looks "foolish." But God is so much smarter than us. He used the cross to show that true power is found in love and sacrifice, not in being the loudest or the strongest. Even when we don't understand why God does things a certain way, we can trust that His "foolishness" is wiser than the smartest person on earth.
- **The Talk:** Is there something happening in your life right now that feels confusing? How does knowing God is "super-wise" help you feel better about it?

Day 2. The "No-Brag" Zone

Focus: The cross removes boasting and builds humility.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:27–29; Ephesians 2:8–9

- **The Activity:** Grab a trophy, a high grade on a paper, or a craft your child is proud of. Talk about how good it feels to say, "Look what I did!"
- **The Lesson:** Usually, we get rewards because we are the best, the fastest, or the smartest. But the cross is different. We can't "earn" our way to God by being "good enough." God gives us His love as a free gift. This means we don't have to brag about how good we are, and we don't have to feel bad if we aren't the "best" at something. Because we all receive the same gift, we can be humble and kind to everyone else.
- **The Talk:** If salvation is a free gift we didn't earn, how should that change how we treat people who make mistakes?

Day 3. Your New Name Tag

Focus: The cross gives us a new identity.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:17

- **The Activity:** Write your child's name on a piece of paper. Around it, write things they *do* (Student, Soccer Player, Artist). Then, flip the paper over and write in big letters: **"IN CHRIST."**
- **The Lesson:** Sometimes we think we are "the kid who is bad at math" or "the kid who gets in trouble." Those are things we *achieve* or labels people give us. But the Big Idea from the sermon is that our identity is *received*. When we follow Jesus, God gives us a new name tag that says "Mine," "Forgiven," and "Loved." You don't have to work to be special; you are already special because of what Jesus did on the cross.
- **The Talk:** Which "name tag" do you think about the most? The one based on what you do, or the one God gave you?