

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **How To Give? (1 Corinthians 16:1-4)**

Date: **February 4, 2018**

We are nearing the conclusion of our study in 1 Corinthians as we consider 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 this week. Paul begins to draw his letter to a close in this week's text as he turn to a new topic. This final chapter of Corinthians begins with some instructions regarding how collections ought to be made for the saints. The assumption is that Christians are assembling on the first day of the week for worship and that during the worship service a financial collection is taken. The Corinthians gave of their finances to the Lord's work as an act of worship. In dealing with this, Paul directs the Corinthians to collect money for needy Jewish Christians that are living in Jerusalem. The Corinthians are commanded here to financially help their poorer brothers and sisters in another city. We see in this text an example of generosity and of love toward those who are in need—especially toward other brothers and sisters in Christ. We too must seek to be generous with what God has given us. We must give to the Lord's work and seek to help poorer saints who are in need.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. In verse 1, Paul refers to "the collection of the saints." What does he mean by this? What is he talking about here?
 - b. Who was the collection for? Why is this something that Paul prioritized?
 - c. How do we know that the saints in Jerusalem are needy and poor? See Acts 11:27-30 and Galatians 2:1-10 (especially verse 10) for more context.
 - d. When the Bible speaks of those who are "poor", what does it mean by this? What does it not mean?
 - e. Can you think of other Scriptures that command us to give to the Lord's work and to take care of the poor and needy?
 - f. In verse 2, Paul says that the collection is to be made on the first day of the week. What does this teach us about Christian worship? Why do we meet for worship on Sundays (see 1 Cor. 16:2 and Acts 20:7)?

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- g. According to verse 2, who is supposed to give to the weekly collection?
- h. Paul continues in verse 2, “each of you is to put something aside and store it up.” What does this teach us about the order and intentionality that went into their practice of giving? How can we apply this principle to our lives?
- i. According to verse 3, Paul required that several representatives from the Corinthian church go together to deliver the financial gift to the church in Jerusalem. Why is this significant? What does this teach us about the importance of financial accountability in the church?
- j. How should Christ’s example in the gospel motivate us to be generous toward those in need? See 2 Cor. 8:9.

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Why is it important that we give financially to the Lord’s work? Is giving to the Lord’s work optional? Why or why not? Use Scripture to support your answer.
3. Paul commanded that money be collected in order to meet the needs of poorer Christians in Jerusalem. What does this teach us about what the disposition of our hearts should be toward the poorer and needier Christians around us?
4. What can we do to cultivate greater generosity and love in our hearts toward those in need?
5. If you knew a Christian that did not give regularly to the Lord’s work, how would you counsel them with Scripture? What would you say and what verses would you use to convict them of their need to give to the kingdom of God?

Accountability Question

Do you give regularly and generously to the Lord’s work in the church? If not, how can we hold you accountable to better prioritize this in your life?