

The Devotional Life

By Max Barnett

Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, participants will take the following assignments.

Assignment One

Turn to the comments related to 1 Corinthians 1:9, especially the notes on “faithfulness” in the section **It’s in the Book**. Prepare to share your answer to this question: What do you learn about God that would make it seem reasonable to trust Him with your life and eternal destiny?

Assignment Two

Read the comments related to 1 Corinthians 1:9, especially the notes on “called,” in the section **It’s in the Book**. Prepare to share your answer to the question: What we are called to and why?

Assignment Three

Read the comments related to 1 Corinthians 1:9, especially the notes on “fellowship” and “Christ Jesus our Lord” in the section **It’s in the Book**. Prepare to share your answer to the question: What does God desire for us and why?

Scripture to Memorize

“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:9

Session Goal

Consistent with God’s Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit - by the end of this session, disciples will understand God's deep desire for disciples to have fellowship with Him and know how to come to Him on a daily basis through reading His Word and through prayer.

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It's in the Book

30 minutes

Real-Life Scenario

Suppose you were talking to some friends and one of them asked, "Since none of us has seen God, how do you know He exists? He certainly is not real to me." What would you say about the way you experience God and how you know He exists and is real to you?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:9 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Verse 9. God is faithful. *Faithful* means "to be worthy of trust, to be one who can be depended on." Our eternal destiny depends on the faithfulness of God. David stated, "Not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He spoke by Moses His servant" (1 Kings 8:56).

Paul wrote to Titus, "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began" (Titus 1:2). Our great God can be completely trusted to fulfill all His promises, and He will be faithful to us. We can count on the faithfulness of God.

Assignment One Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now report on what they have learned about the faithfulness of God.

Discussion Questions

Why did Paul write to the Corinthians and place such an emphasis on the faithfulness of God? Why is that characteristic or character quality of God so important to our lives?

On Your Own

Write some of your thoughts about the faithfulness of God. How do you want that to impact your life?

Studying the Passage

Verse 9. called The Bible clearly tells us that God has called us. The first calling of God on our lives is to come into a relationship with Him. He wants us to know Him. It is not because God has a need. He is self-sufficient. However, He wants us to have an abundant life that comes as a result of knowing and walking with Him.

When Jesus called His first disciples, He asked them to follow Him. He wanted them to be with Him. Mark records it this way: "And He appointed twelve so that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach" (Mark 3:14).

Assignment Two Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now share what they understand about the calling of God on our lives.

Discussion Question

What is the significance of God's taking the initiative to call us to Himself?

On Your Own

As you consider the fact that God has extended His call for you to come into fellowship with Him, jot down your response to that call in the space below.

Studying the Passage

Verse 9. fellowship. When we have fellowship with another, we talk and share our hearts and lives together. That is what Jesus longs for you to do. He wants you to come to Him with all your concerns. Do not be afraid that He will not welcome you. He longs for you to be with Him in daily fellowship. We, like the disciples, need to walk in fellowship with Him.

The disciples really did not have anything life changing to offer until they had been with Jesus. When the early disciples had been with Jesus, people could tell by the quality of their lives. "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). When we walk in daily fellowship with Him, people will take notice.

The Bible clearly declares that Jesus Christ is Lord. He is the Son of God who willingly laid down His life for us so that we could experience His lordship in our lives. As Lord, He is to be obeyed because He knows what is best for our lives.

Assignment Three Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now discuss what they have learned about having fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

On Your Own

Have a plan to spend a special time of fellowship daily with the Lord. Don't get too busy to have a set time each day to read your Bible and pray. Take some time now to design a plan you will follow daily. Write out what you will do and when.

Heart and Hands

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below, and then be ready to share that with the group.

Since Last Week

5 minutes

Give the group this update: "In our last session I made a commitment to . . . I want to let you know how that turned out. On that same issue, I think the Holy Spirit now is leading me to . . ."

Grace-Filled Accountability

5 minutes

Disciples can agree on a way to hold one another accountable. Confessing faults with other disciples allows them to offer grace, insights and encouragement. Even more important is confession to Christ, the source of true forgiveness and cleansing.

Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service

5 minutes

Groups of disciples always are making preparations for evangelism, missions and service. Use these minutes to work on the next plan.

Prayer

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

At Home: Nail It Down

1 Corinthians 1:9 clearly reveals the desire God has for us to spend time with Him. Read the story of Jesus' visit to the home of Mary and Martha, found in Luke 10:38-42. Note the difference between what Martha and Mary did. Whom did Jesus commend and why?

When Jesus walked this earth, fellowship with His Father was obviously a top priority in His life. Leaving the crowds to be alone with His Father was a habit in the life of Jesus. Luke states, "But He would withdraw to desolate places and pray" (Luke 5:16). Before He made the important decision as to whom He would choose to be His twelve apostles, He spent the whole night in prayer. See Luke 6:12-13. Jesus told His disciples to follow Him. We would do well to follow His example, making fellowship with God a top priority.

Plan to read the Bible and pray on a consistent basis. Never let anything take the place of your Bible in your devotional time. Some good devotional books can be a supplement to your time in God's Word, but do not let anything take the place of your time with God in His Word. Make that time with God your highest priority. You will have to fight Satan all your life to keep that in first place daily. Jesus is preeminent and is to have first place in our time commitments.

Follow-Up Questions

What plan have you created for daily worship, prayer and time in the Word. How can I help you get the truths of 1 Corinthians 1:9 established in your life?

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to those who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.