

Family Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

1. Imagine you have no knowledge of the Christian faith at all. Rank the following statements from least to most ridiculous:

- a. Jesus was born of a virgin
- b. Love your neighbor as yourself
- c. Jesus won a victory by being killed
- d. Jesus rose from the dead

2. Any other claims made in the Christian faith that seem foolish?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Which particular aspect of the Christian message is Paul referring to in these verses? Why might it have sounded foolish to other groups?

4. How does God use this message, according to these verses?

5. How does God's use of the message give us the confidence to promote it despite its foolishness?

6. Read verse 26. How does Paul describe the Corinthians? Do you ever feel this way about yourself? Does being a Christian ever make you feel this way?

7. Given their weak position in society, what fears might the Corinthians have harbored about their Christian witness?

8. Read verses 27-31. Why has God chosen the Corinthians despite their weakness?

9. What kind of boasting is Paul referring to? What might such a boast sound like?

10. What do we learn about our salvation in verses 30-31?

11. Read Chapter 2:1-5. In what ways was Paul weak? What advantage did his weakness bring to his ministry?

12. Are you content with being weak and foolish in the ways described in this passage? What encouragement does the passage bring us as we feel weak and foolish?

13. Pray that many will be saved through the foolish message of our weak church. Pray our weakness will point to God's power at work.

Questions for the whole family

1. Does anything in the Bible's story of Jesus seem silly to you? What things might seem silly to others?

2. Even though the story of Jesus might seem strange, what does it achieve? (see 1:18 and 1:21)

3. Why does God use ideas that seem weird? (see verses 27-31)

4. What can we remember from these verses when we feel our beliefs might appear strange?