

## **Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | August 14, 2022**

### **Begin with Scripture and prayer (5 minutes).**

**Read Psalm 51** to begin your time together. As we continue in our sermon series, use this passage to instill a posture of repentance in your group.

Once you've finished reading, pause for a few moments to allow David's prayer to sink in. After your pause, pray for your time together.

### **Read Scripture and debrief the sermon (40 minutes).**

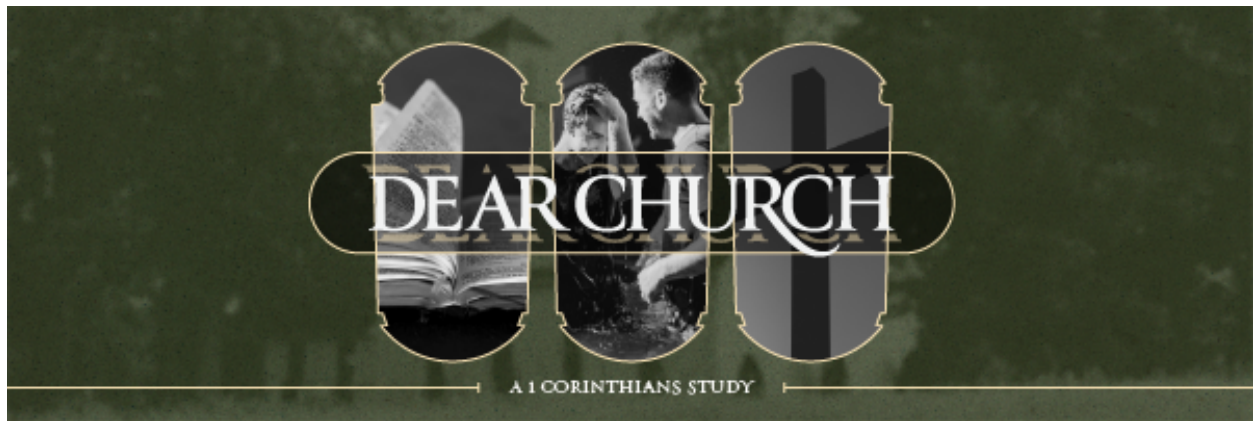
*Select a few of these questions to help you discuss the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.*

### **Take a few moments to split off into triads. In those triads, do the following:**

- **Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.**
- What's the tone of these verses Paul wrote to the Corinthians? What other verses in **1 Corinthians 1-4** tell you about Paul's heart for the Corinthians? What do they say?
- Paul is addressing two main issues in **1 Corinthians 5**, and both can be found in the first two verses. What seems to be the issue that Paul addresses in **verse 1**? What is the issue that Paul addresses in **verse 2**? What do these two issues tell you about the spiritual climate of the Corinthian church?
- In **1 Corinthians 5:5**, Paul gives two reasons for the discipline he enacts on the sinful man. What are Paul's reasons? Whose spirit and power does Paul give this directive in (see verses 3-4)?
- What did you personally find most challenging about these verses?

### **Once finished with those questions, come back together as a large group.**

- What stood out from your mini-group discussions about this text?
- What is something new or fresh from the sermon this weekend that you learned? What from the message challenged you personally?
- When you hear the word "sin," what feelings or thoughts come to mind? What life experiences (religious or otherwise) have shaped how you view that word?



- After hearing the sermon and reading the passage, how would you define sin?
- **Read 1 John 3:4; Romans 1:18; Jude 15; Ephesians 4:18; Romans 3:23; Matthew 7:17** and their surrounding contexts. How do these passages enlighten your definition of sin?
- In his sermon, Emerson talked about how Paul challenged the Corinthians in three areas:
  - (1) the infestation of sin in their midst
  - (2) their toleration of sin in their midst
  - (3) their need for the elimination of sin in their midst

Which of these three areas do you struggle with most? Why?

- When was a time you tolerated sin in your life? How did that affect you and your relationships? Your relationship with God?
- When was a time you radically eliminated sin from your life? What was that like?
- **Read Romans 8:13.** What would it look like for you to put “deeds of the body” to death this week in a new and fresh way?

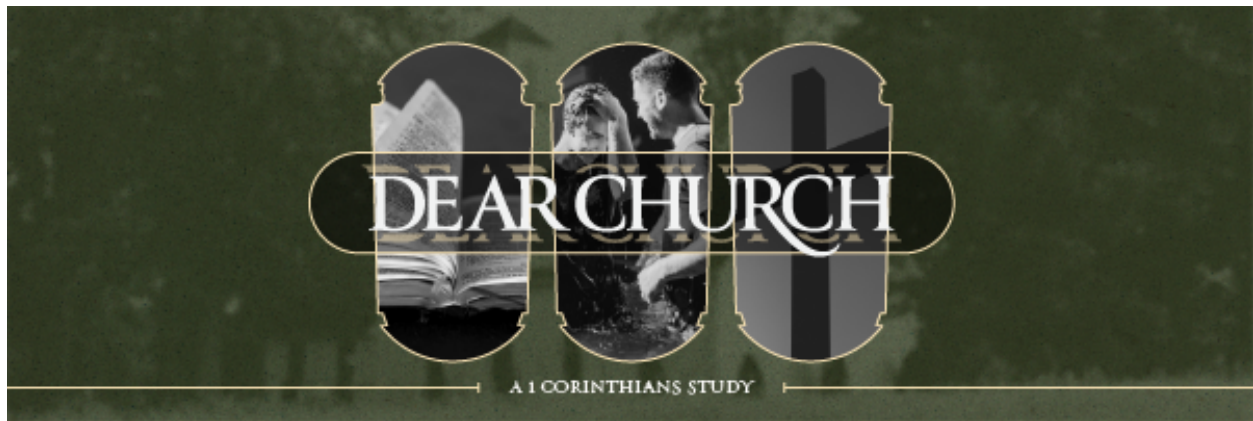
### **Split off into accountability groups (30 minutes).**

Take some time to split into gendered groups. When you do, talk through the following questions. After each person shares, pray over them.

- How are you...really?
- In what ways is sin manifesting itself in you lately?
- What sin are you tolerating right now that you should be eliminating?
- In what area of life do you feel like sin has a stronghold over your life right now?
- How can this group be praying for you?

### **Come back together as a large group. Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone’s prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.



- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.