# **Series: Together Toward Maturity**

Inductive Bible Study Guide: 1 Corinthians 1:26–2:5



## Step 1: Observation – What does the passage say?

Read the passage at least twice — slowly and thoughtfully. Consider reading it aloud. Pay attention to what Paul is saying, how he's saying it, and what words or phrases he repeats or emphasizes.

Tips for Observation:

- Who is speaking, and who is being addressed?
- What comparisons or contrasts are made?
- What themes or keywords stand out?
- What tone or emotion do you sense in the passage?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26–2:5 and take note of the following:		
	1.	What kinds of people does Paul say God called? (1:26–29)
	2.	What contrasts does Paul make between the world's values and God's ways?
	3.	What is Paul's point about boasting in verses 29–31?

4.	What does Paul say about himself when he came to Corinth? (2:1–3)
5.	What does Paul say he did not rely on in his ministry?
6.	What does he say he did rely on instead?
Step	2: Interpretation – What does the passage mean?
	ontinues to challenge the Corinthian mindset, which prized status, intelligence, and r. He reminds them (and us) that the gospel runs on a different kind of power — the power d.
Quest	ions to Explore:
1.	Why is it significant that most of the Corinthian believers were not "wise," "powerful," or "of noble birth"? (v.26)

2.	According to verses 27–29, why does God choose the "foolish" and "weak"? What does this show about God's character?	
3.	What does Paul mean when he says that Christ became our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption? (v.30)	
4.	Why do you think Paul intentionally avoided "lofty speech" and "human wisdom" in his preaching? (2:1–2)	
5.	What does it mean to have faith not in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God? (2:5)	
Word Study Suggestions:		

- Boast (v.31): Greek *kauchaomai* to glory, take pride in, or rejoice in.
- Sanctification (v.30): Greek *hagiasmos* holiness, the process of being made set apart.
- Power (2:5): Greek *dynamis* strength, might, miracle-working ability.

# **Step 3: Application – How should I respond?**

$identity, and \ confidence. \ God's \ work \ often \ flips \ our \ expectations \ upside \ down \on \ purpose.$		
D Pe	ersonal Reflection:	
1.	Have I ever felt like I'm not "enough" — not smart enough, strong enough, spiritual enough — to serve God? How does this passage encourage me?	
2.	Am I tempted to rely on human wisdom (my own ability, persuasion, credentials) instead of the Spirit's power?	
3.	How can I shift my mindset to "boast in the Lord" this week — in my conversations, attitudes, or prayers?	
4.	In what ways might God be calling me to walk in humility and simplicity, like Paul did?	
5.	What would it look like for my faith to rest in the power of God, not the wisdom of people?	

Paul challenges both the Corinthian church and us today to rethink where we find value,

#### **Summary Truths:**

- God delights in using the humble, weak, and overlooked for His purposes.
- True wisdom and power come through Christ not the world's approval or acclaim.
- Our boast and identity are found in Jesus alone.
- Ministry and spiritual impact come from the Spirit's power, not impressive words.

#### **Memory Verse:**

"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." — 1 Corinthians 1:31 (ESV)

### A Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, thank You for choosing me, not because I'm strong or impressive, but because You are gracious. Help me to live in a way that reflects Your power, not mine. Teach me to boast in You alone and to walk by the Spirit, not by human strength."

### **For Further Study:**

- Read 2 Corinthians 12:9–10 for Paul's thoughts on God's strength in weakness.
- Meditate on Jeremiah 9:23–24 where the idea of boasting in the Lord originates.
- Journal about a time when God used you despite your limitations.