Session 11 | **KEY TEXT**: 1 Corinthians 1:4-17

A DIVIDED CHURCH

CENTRAL TRUTH

We can fall into the same trap as the Corinthians when we focus more on influencers, leaders, or friends instead of Christ Himself. When Jesus is your foundation, believers can stay united in truth. The devil loves to distract us from Jesus, so we have to stay focused on him and help others do the same. **Believers are called to be unified because of our faith in Christ.**

KEY QUESTION

In verses 4-7, what does Paul thank God for specifically?

Paul begins this section by thanking God for the grace and mercy that He has shown the Corinthian Christians. Every gift that the Corinthians had was because of the goodness and grace of God in their lives. They were "enriched" in all speech and knowledge. Any good and holy thing that the people did was because God had given them the appropriate gifting to do so. God gives each follower of Christ spiritual gifts to carry out the mission He calls them to.

KEEP IN MIND

- Christian communities are not immune against division and friction. However, students can be peacemakers in their spheres of influence. Encourage them to trust the Holy Spirit and look for opportunities to pursue unity and reconciliation in relationships, particularly with other believers.
- Today, students may be tempted to pay more attention to "Christian celebrities" than to Christ Himself. It's important for students to have Christian leaders whom they respect and want to emulate. But, we must encourage them to know Jesus through reading His Word.

APPLICATION

- **What can you do this week to spend time focusing your attention on God so that you stay in tune with Him and experience unity with other Christians?**

THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: In a culture that looks for reasons to divide, believers are called to be people of unity who seek to represent Christ in all that we say and do.

FOR THE LEADER: Encourage students to know the truth of God's Word for themselves, and not to merely take people's teaching at face-value. Highlight any resources that may be helpful to students in studying God's Word.

7 ARROWS

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage tell us about God?
- What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
- What does this passage tell us about the human heart?
- How does this passage prompt me to pray?
- What does this passage demand of me?