

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

“Turned Upside-Down”

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Memory Verse: Acts 17:6b “...*Those who have turned the world upside down have come here too.*”

Lesson Focus: We will introduce the book of 1 Corinthians by repeating a concept we have used before: That God radically transforms us and turns our lives upside-down when we become disciples of Jesus Christ. This is what happened in Corinth when the gospel came there. We will have some fun with this idea and challenge the kids to join the Corinthians in devotion to Jesus Christ.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Paul Writing Letter for 1st & 2nd, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Turned Upside-Down

Starter Activity: Upside Down

Teachers: Consider having some fun in your class room by turning things upside down and having the kids find the things that are upside down. Also when you bring the kids * out for worship, we will have them sit in different rows to mix it up! 5th graders will sit in the front, with 3rd grade behind, and then 4th grade at the back. 2nd and 1st will swap also!

After worship, we will then keep all of the kids in the Summit Room for our starter activity. We are going to show a quick video from the first [Star Wars movie](#) showing how Luke Skywalker visited a pretty nasty place. After watching the video, we will ask a few questions: *

Q: How do you think Luke Skywalker felt when he walked into that place?

A: Nervous, anxious, and uncomfortable!

Q: Why do you think he felt that way?

A: The characters in that place did not look very nice.

Q: Have you ever entered a place that you felt a little uncomfortable at? Why? *

We are going to start a new book of the Bible today called 1 Corinthians. A “Corinthian” was somebody from the city of Corinth just like a “Texan” is what you would call somebody from Texas.

But back then, to be a “Corinthian” also meant that you were known to be a little like the nasty characters in that movie scene! Not aliens, but known for sin and wickedness! Yet this is EXACTLY the place where the good news of Jesus Christ is needed! And because the gospel came to Corinth and turned it upside-down, we now have this letter!

Background:

Important questions to establish context and background of any book of the Bible.

- 1) **What?:** The book of 1 Corinthians is a letter written to the believers in Corinth.
- 2) **Who?:** The apostle Paul wrote this letter shortly after he established a church there.
- 3) **When?:** Most experts believe it was one of the first letters Paul wrote and one of the earliest books of the NT.
- 4) **Why?:** Instruct the believers in Corinth on how to no longer live like “Corinthians” but to live as the church, followers of Jesus Christ.

Before we begin our study, we need to review what we have covered the last two weeks. Two weeks ago we talked about the Great Commission.

Q: What is that about? *

A: First being a disciple of Jesus Christ and then going out and making other disciples, or followers of Jesus! This is our duty as Christians!

Last week we looked at the life of George Mueller who God used to turn the city of London upside-down by praying and bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to orphans and caring for them.

Disciple-making is exactly what the apostle Paul did in Corinth! After he became a Christian, he went into messy places like Corinth that no one else wanted to go to. God used him there to TURN THE CITY UPSIDE-DOWN, one person at a time.

Bible Study:

1 Corinthians 1:1: Remember this is a letter written from the apostle Paul. Like any letter you would write today, you would put your name on it so that who you are sending it to would know who it is from!

Q: What would happen if you received a letter from someone with special instructions for you, but you didn’t know who it was from?

Paul is an apostle. This means that this letter is not just from one friend to another, but from someone chosen by God to speak exactly what God wanted!

1 Corinthians 1:2: Like any letter you would write today, you would next address it TO someone.

Q: How do you begin most letters? A: **Dear** “So-And-So” *
This verse is Paul’s way of saying “**Dear** Church in Corinth”.

Q: But what is the church? A: Sometimes we think church is just a building that we come to. But do you write a letter to a building or to a people? People! Notice how he describes these people in the church. He calls them saints!

Q: What does that mean?

A: A lot of people think that saints are amazing people who lived amazing lives and are now in heaven. But that is not what the Bible teaches! “Saints” are simply those who believe in Jesus Christ having had their lives turned upside-down. They no longer live for themselves, but for Jesus Christ! Paul is writing to ORDINARY believers in Corinth like you and me who love Jesus and because of that, he calls them saints.

1 Corinthians 1:3: What a wonderful greeting!

Saints enjoy and experience the grace and peace of God. You hear these words at church a lot. But what do they actually mean?

Grace: Getting what you do NOT deserve! We deserve punishment because of our sin, but God turn things upside-down as he extends His forgiveness and favor (grace) to us when we believe and trust in the finished work of His Son on the cross!

Peace: This describes how we feel when God turns our lives upside-down and we are living for Him. This is what we experience when we know that all of our sins, past, present, future, are forgiven! *

1 Corinthians 1:4: Paul gives thanks to God for the work that He has done in them!

Remember that scene from Star Wars? Like them, the people of Corinth were known for being selfish and wicked. Only God had the power to turn their lives upside-down and make them saints by His grace. Paul is amazed at how God has changed them.

Q: Have you ever had an experience where you are just amazed at what God did and you respond by giving Him thanks and praise? *

1 Corinthians 1:5: These believers are being “enriched”. We should be too!

Q: How many of you dip French fries in ketchup?

Q: How many of you put chocolate sauce on your ice cream?

Q: Why? A: To ENRICH and improve the taste. As Christians, the Holy Spirit is at work in us ENRICHING our lives. As we spend more time in prayer, reading the Bible, and obeying Jesus, the more we will grow and be ENRICHED by the Holy Spirit. *

1 Corinthians 1:6-7: These believers are EXCITED about being Christians.

Q: What is something that you are “eagerly waiting” for? (i.e. friend sleepover, Spring break, your birthday party). We can all get excited about these good things, but Christians have something MUCH BIGGER to look forward to: What do you think that is?

A: Being with Jesus forever! *

1 Corinthians 1:8-9: Who will confirm the Christian to the end? Jesus will! Who is faithful? God is. Wow!

Key Point: So far, this letter that the apostle wrote to this church at Corinth could also have been written to you and me.

Instead of “To the saints in Corinth” it could read “To the saints at RMC in Colorado Springs”. For we have received the same gospel, and believe in the same Jesus Christ that they have received and believed in!

Just like God used the apostle Paul to turn the people of Corinth’s lives upside-down 2000 years ago, God is doing the same thing today in Colorado Springs.

Go home and into your week in **JOY!** (**Teachers:** Consider wrapping up the lesson writing this acronym on the board and having some discussion)

Jesus
Others
You

Q: The world tells us to make who #1? YOU! How does it look when everyone is just living for themselves? It’s a mess!

But when God turns our lives upside-down, we put Jesus first! Put Him first this week!

Bring It Home

Download at: <https://rncalvary.org/volunteering/childrens-ministry/family-resources/>

Lesson Theme: “Turned Upside-Down”

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Memory Verse: Acts 17:6b “...*Those who have turned the world upside down have come here too.*”

Teachers/Parents: Our major theme throughout our lesson is that God turned the city of Corinth upside-down as the gospel powerfully changed the people there from the inside out. God is doing the same thing today here in Colorado Springs one life at a time. Can you think of any personal examples or stories where God turned your view of things completely upside-down?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) In the beginning of **1 Corinthians 1:2**, Paul addresses this letter to the “church at Corinth”. Does this describe a building or a people? In the same way, RMC has a building, but what really makes up the church of Rocky Mountain Calvary?
- 2) Notice how the rest of **1 Corinthians 1:2** describes the church at Corinth. Read the verse slowly and out loud and ask a couple of family members to pick out something that stood out to them. Why did that stand out and what does it mean?
- 3) Read **1 Corinthians 1:3**. Almost every letter of Paul is introduced with this greeting as it is what every Christian should expect to experience and own as followers of Jesus Christ. What does grace mean? What does peace mean? (Checkout **Romans 5:1-2** for a good biblical example of both)
- 4) Read **1 Corinthians 1:5**. What are some ways that you might enrich something to make it better (i.e. food, home)?
- 5) In **1 Corinthians 1:7**, what were the Corinthian believers “eagerly waiting for”? Is this something that you are eagerly waiting for? Why or why not?
- 6) Read **Acts 17:6**, our memory verse. How were these early Christians described? As you read through the book of Acts and Paul bringing the gospel to different places, you see similar accounts. Also checkout **Acts 16:20-21**, **Acts 17:7-8**, **Acts 18:12-13**, and **Acts 19:23**). The goal wasn’t to cause trouble, but to wake people up to the reality of their sin and their need to be restored to the God of all creation. Is there anyone in your life that God might have you *lovingly* disrupt?