**A Quick Look at the Features of EWG Lessons:**

**Introduction, Prayer Focus, Daily Questions:** Each lesson will include a brief introduction to the week's theme, followed by a concise sentence or two to prompt your thoughts and prayers throughout the day.

**This week,** pray for a fruitful year of study in EWG for yourself and all who attend! *Before you begin the lesson questions each day, make sure you read and re-read the passage of study listed for each day so that you become familiar with it.*

**Digging Deeper:** These optional questions, which appear within the daily lessons, are designed for those who wish to explore specific topics or themes of Scripture in greater depth.

**Heart Check:** These questions are for personal consideration only, not necessarily to be shared with your small group. Take time to search your own heart through these questions, meditating, praying, confessing your sins, and committing to change in specific ways with the Holy Spirit’s help.

**Memory Verse:** We will begin the year by memorizing 1 Corinthians 1:18–31.

This week’s memory verses are 1 Corinthians 1:18–19:

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved,

it is the power of God. For it is written, “I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE,

AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.” *(LSB)*

**Introduction to Lesson One:** “Referring to the return of Christ and the end of time (vv. 7–8), Paul brings the paragraph on thanksgiving to a climax that functions as an introduction to the rest of his epistle. The body of his epistle contains admonition, rebuke, teaching, and correction. But in… (ch. 15), Paul discusses the doctrine of the resurrection and the eternal destiny of the believers. In short, by calling attention to the day of the Lord in this passage, Paul sets the tone for the remainder of the letter.”

 Simon J. Kistemaker

*New Testament Commentary;* p. 43

**Day One**

*1 Corinthians 1:1–3 —* ***Author and Recipients***

1. From 1 Corinthians 1:1, who wrote 1 Corinthians, who helped him, and how are they both described?

2. To whom is the letter addressed in verses 2–3, and how did Paul greet and describe the recipients of this letter?

 a. What stands out to you from this description? What kind of people would you expect these Corinthians to be based on Paul’s words about them?

b. **Heart Check**: Are the descriptions in verses 2–3 true of you today? If you have not yet come to saving faith in Christ, may today be the day of salvation! If you are a Christian, are you living in keeping with your identity in Christ? List two or three ways that you desire to grow in Christlikeness.

**Day Two**

*1 Corinthians 1:4–9 —* ***Paul’s Thanksgiving and God’s Grace***

1. For what did Paul give thanks in verse 4? How frequently did he say he gave thanks for this?

2. From verses 5–7, list the effects that the grace of God had on the lives of the Corinthian believers.

3. About what works and characteristics of God the Father and Jesus Christ did Paul remind the Corinthians in verses 8–9? How do these attributes and deeds encourage you personally?

4. **Dig Deeper:** Read Romans 8:19–23; Revelation 2:11, 17, 26–28; 3:5, 12, and 21 and list four or five things which will be accomplished for believers on the day of Christ’s return.

5. **Heart Check:** Consider whether *you* are waiting eagerly for the return of Christ. List two or three ways that this anticipation should change the way Christians live their daily lives.

**Day Three**

*1 Corinthians 1:10–11 —* ***Quarrels in the Church***

1. What transitional phrase begins verse 10, and what does this verse indicate about Paul’s intention in writing this section?

2. List the different elements of Paul’s exhortation in verse 10. What is the common theme among these commands?

 a. What term did Paul use for the Corinthians in verse 10? What does this word reveal about Paul’s heart for the Corinthians, and how would it have impacted their reception of these commands?

4. In verse 11, what was Paul’s reason for giving these exhortations?

5. **Dig Deeper:** Using cross references or another resource, list two or three things that you learn about Apollos and Cephas. Why would these men have been highly regarded by the church in Corinth?

 a. Find two or three references in Scripture that direct how Christians should think about their church leaders and what temptations or pitfalls they should avoid.

**Day Four**

*1 Corinthians 1:12–16 —* ***Factions in the Church***

1. In verse 12, how did Paul explain what he meant by “quarrels” in verse 11?

 a. Over what issue were the Corinthians divided, and what did this reveal about their hearts?

2. Based on verse 13, why were the factions Paul was addressing within the church so problematic?

 a. **Dig Deeper**: Who is the true and only head of the church? To whom are all elders, pastors, and teachers commanded to submit? Support your answer from Scripture.

3. In verses 14–16, for what unusual reason did Paul thank God, and why?

4. For context on the purpose and practice of baptism, read Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:40–41, and Acts 19:1–5. What role does baptism play in the life of a believer in Christ? How were the Corinthians thinking wrongly about this God-ordained practice?

 a. How would you answer the following counseling question, and why: “John MacArthur baptized my friend. I am so jealous! I am a Christian, but I was baptized by a pastor who was later revealed to be a false teacher. Should I be rebaptized?”

5. **Heart Check:** Consider whether you have caused any divisions or factions within your church body, or to which you may have contributed. Confess that, then list two or three practical steps you can take to pursue peace and unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Day Five**

*1 Corinthians 1:17 —* ***Paul’s Ministry Objective***

1. From verse 17, for what purpose did Paul say that Christ sent him to Corinth? What was Paul’s true mission, and what was **not** the ultimate focus of his work?

2. What does verse 17 say will result from church leaders who are focused on gaining a following for themselves? What damage would such a motivation cause in the ministry and witness of the local church?

3. From Philippians 3:7–17, list two or three things that characterized Paul’s personal life. What was the “one thing” that Paul pursued above anything else? See Philippians 3:13–14.

4. Write a prayer to God, for your church leaders to remain personally focused on the gospel and bring glory to Christ alone, and list three to five ways that church members, including you, can support them in this pursuit.

Lauren Brown September 17, 2025

I. Paul’s Greeting and Confirmation of the Corinthians Calling *—*1 Corinthians 1:1–9

II. The Problem *—*1 Corinthians 1:10-16

III. The Solution *—*1 Corinthians 1:17

**Additional Resources**

* Called to be Saints - 1 Cor. 1:1-3

John MacArthur, April 13, 1975

<https://www.gty.org/sermons/1810/called-to-be-saints>

* The Benefits of Being a Saint - 1 Cor. 1:4-9

John MacArthur, April 20, 1975

<https://www.gty.org/sermons/1811/the-benefits-of-being-a-saint>

* Splits and Quarrels in the Church - 1 Cor. 1:10-17

John MacArthur, 1975

<https://www.gty.org/sermons/1812/splits-and-quarrels-in-the-church>