

## **TENSIONS**

### **WEEK 1: DIVISIONS**

#### **DAY 1: READ EPHESIANS 2**

We all encounter and perpetuate division at some point in our lives. Why is that? When have you seen or experienced division or alienation? Why was that? When have you caused it? How does Jesus' love break down those walls and unite us? Today, consistently choose to remember the unity we have in Christ and everyone's universal need for Jesus' blood.

#### **DAY 2: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17**

Do you sense the frustration in Paul's writing? Look at the global Church today. What similar divisions do you see today? Whether you find yourself encountering this division or firmly entrenched against others, surrender everything beneath the feet of Jesus. Look at verses 13 and 17. Let there be no division or identity separate from Christ. He is our sole source of salvation and, in Him, our one common bond of hope. Give it to Jesus.

#### **DAY 3: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31**

Living a life in the fullness of Christ is neither easy nor normal in the world. Because the righteousness of Christ is so contrary to the brokenness of humankind, we are bound to encounter opposition, persecution, mockery or general disregard by those who don't yet know Him. How have you seen or experienced this tension? How are you clinging tightly to the faith and commands of Jesus in spite of the pressure of the world? Let verses 26-31 encourage you and remind you that God has not haphazardly created us or called us into a spiritually deaf, blind, hungry and diseased world to bring the hope of Jesus.

#### **DAY 4: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 2**

Pay close attention to verses 1-5. We know the one healing agent for the brokenness of this world – Jesus. We tend to fail as Christians when we put strategy, word-choice, aesthetic or any other superfluous thing in front of Jesus.

*DAY 4 CONTINUED  
ON BACK...*

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A LENTEN STUDY THROUGH 1 CORINTHIANS



Today, as we try to obey the call of Christ and share the Good News, let's let the power of the living presence of God go before us and do the work. Like the adage says, "keep it simple, stupid." Let's act and speak first of Christ and, in doing so, let the demonstration of the Spirit change the hearts of men and women.

### **DAY 5: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3**

What areas of your life are you attempting to lay something on other than the foundation of Jesus? Why? Is it because of worldly wisdom or logic? This passage is pretty specific about the ways our building materials are tested - with fire. Let's cling to God's word as we build His temple in our lives. Let all the temporal, divisive, broken works be replaced with the righteous, spiritual wisdom of God.

### **DAY 6: READ COLOSSIANS 2-3**

Let's make sure we are rooted in Christ and built up in His unchanging truth. Let's put to death the corruptible, imperfect things in our lives, behavior and beliefs so that only Christ remains. Look at 2:4-8. Let's be on guard against false teaching and needless arguments, both with ourselves and with each other as followers of Jesus. If not already, let's reassure ourselves of what's true and of Christ by reading the Bible consistently, growing in knowledge of the scriptures and, in prayer, forming a deeper relationship the Holy Spirit, who gives us gifts, equips us and validates our call above any mistruth, any divisive tongue and any contrary nature of the world we are faced with.

### **DAY 7: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9,17**

God has given us grace in Christ Jesus. By all accounts and in every season, He has made sure we are not lacking in any gift as we wait and earnestly seek the return of Jesus. He is faithful. We often foster and feel division when we lack the fullness of Christ's assurance. We draw our eyes and fixate on pastors, worship leaders, writers, theologians, diets, oils, fashion and other peripheral tribes to assuage our life-critical, deeper need for Jesus. Let those things go. Remind yourself that Christ is everything and because of Him, our Heavenly Father supplies everything you need. No one else, nothing else. Only Jesus.