Message Outline

Corinthians: Building a Church—
The Centrality of the Cross
1 Corinthians 1:1-2:5

Intro: Corinthians, a church Paul "built"…

v.1—Paul, the "wrecking ball" turned "builder"…

v.2a—Last week, city dynamics of Corinth…

v.2-9—The letter greeting and thanksgiving accessed in God…

v.10-12—Problems in the church…

v.13-17—Pointing people to Jesus in midst of problems (cf. 1Cor.3:4-7)…

v.18-2:5—Remember the cross…

<u>Why I Need the Cross!!!</u>

• The cross as central to the faith (2:2, 1:23, 17)…
   -Resurrection will bookend this letter (cf. 1Cor.15)…

• The cross providing the framing for every other matter Paul will build upon…

1) S_____
   • Heb.9:22, Rom.3:25, 1Pet.2:24, Col.1:19ff
   • The cross where sin is forgiven…
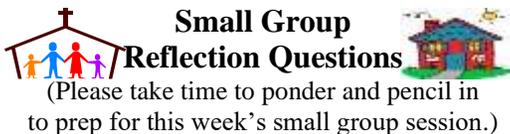   • Theories of Atonement…

2) S_____
   • Heb.12:1-3, 4:15, 2Cor.1:3-5
   • God knows suffering experientially!
   • Other faiths understanding of suffering…

3) S_____
   • Colossians 2:13-15
   • Jesus takes evils best uppercut and overcomes!
      -*Rocky 3*, *Chronicles of Narnia*…

4) S_____
   • Rom.5:8, 1Jn.4:10, Jn.10:11ff.
   • Who has ever loved you like Jesus?!! The cross shows just how much He cares!!!

Small Group Reflection Questions

(Please take time to ponder and pencil in to prep for this week's small group session.)

Read: John 1, Matthew 1, Luke 2—Jesus' Birth
*What does this text say about God? What does it say about me/humanity?

*What spoke to you this past Sunday (ie. what made you laugh, learn, look deeper at life etc.)?

*Trivia Time: The cross was made of wood—what other significant things in Scripture were made of wood? List as many as possible.

*Paul seems to summarize the message of Christianity in the event of the cross (1Cor.2:2). If you had to summarize the whole Christian faith to ONE sentence, what would you say?

*Finish this sentence: To me, the cross is significant because…

*Throughout your stages of life, how have you viewed the cross?