

FRIDAY 2-4-11

Read: **1 Corinthians 15: 1-11** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=1+corinthians+15:1-11)

Prayer: Thank You, God, for not holding my past against me. Thank You for being willing to wipe clean all my mistakes and failures. Thank You for giving me courage to repair the damage, restore the relationships, and learn from my mistakes. Thank You for helping me grow to be the person You dream of me becoming. Amen

Journal Reflection: The Apostle Paul relates the first written account of the Jesus' resurrection in this passage. He also demonstrates an uncanny ability to see himself clearly. Paul knows he failed God. Paul knows who he is. Paul also knows that by God's grace Paul is empowered and impassioned for world changing living. By God's grace, Paul is salt!

Resolve: I will trust in God's grace to work a salty miracle in me!

SATURDAY 2-5-11

Read: **Romans 12:1-8** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=romans+12:1-8)

Prayer: Christ, Lord of my life, I turn to You this day giving thanks for Your great love that continues every moment of every day of my life. Thank You for trusting me to be involved in Your world changing work. Help me to grow in my trust, Lord Jesus, so that I can understand that my small efforts at goodness are a part of Your larger design to grow the world into a better place. Amen

Journal Reflection: You are gifted! Every one of Christ's followers is gifted with a special way of building up God's world. There are no exceptions! If you know your gift, give thanks! If you are uncertain, talk with a spiritual friend. If you are unaware, begin a process of prayer for discernment. Jesus wants you to be a gifted grower of the world!

Resolve: I will be a gifted and salty person for Christ today.

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

For Sunday, January 30, 2011's Sermon

Foundational Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

(<http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm>)

Featured Scripture Reflection: "For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (NRSV)

Opening Icebreaker: What are some things you wonder about which may never have an answer (Examples: I wonder if there is life on other planets. Did Adam have a belly button? What is heaven like?)

Scripture Questions

What is the scripture saying?

- Why is Paul writing these words specifically to the Christian church?
- When Paul writes about "foolishness," what does he mean?
- Paul writes about God choosing the weak in this world so that the strong are shamed (v. 27), who or what are the "weak" and who or what are the "strong"?
- What does Paul mean when he refers to the crucified Christ as being a "stumbling block" (v. 23)?

How is your life touched?

- When you consider your faith, what are some things you believe that seem like foolishness to others?
- What does the cross mean to you? How does the message of the cross come into conflict with some generally accepted principles in our culture today?
- What is the world's definition of strength and wisdom? How does it differ from what Christians believe?
- In what ways do you fall short of the human standards of strength and wisdom (v. 26)

What is God's invitation to you?

- How can the mysteries of your faith bring you joy and comfort rather than fear and anxiety?

What can you pray for?

Pray that God will strengthen your faith as you step out boldly to believe impossible and seemingly ridiculous things.