

Theme & Passage(s)	<p>Unity, Fire and Foolishness</p> <p>1 Corinthians 3:10-23</p>
Welcome	<p>Provide some building materials (paper cups, lego, playing cards... whatever) and divide into two teams to construct something elegant and sturdy. Decide together which team was most successful.</p>
Worship	<p>Break into pairs to consider the question, taking it in turns to speak and listen:</p> <p>‘What are you and God working on at present?’</p> <p>End the time by praying for each other before re-joining the group.</p>
Word/ Read & Reflect	<p>Begin in silence, welcoming the Holy Spirit to guide you.</p> <p>Read the passage(s) and then be silent. Read again. Be silent once more, attentive to the Spirit.</p> <p>Share out of this experience...</p> <p>If time, consider some of the following questions.</p> <p>Why do you think that Paul spends so long on the problems of rivalries and arguments in the church? (Chapters 1:10 to 3:23). Where do we see them today?</p> <p>Paul places great value on the unity of the church (vv. 16-17). It is a ‘high stakes’ issue. Why do you think that is? In what ways can we be working at maintaining our unity for the sake of the gospel?</p> <p>Paul teaches that our work and service will be tested by fire (vv. 12-15). What do you think will be burned up and what will remain? (Hint: think about what is suitable/unsuitable for building on the foundation that is Christ?)</p> <p>Paul says that we should become ‘fools’ so that we might become wise. Unpack what this means and think about how you might live this out in your own contexts.</p> <p>After one more appeal to stop the boasting about human leaders, Paul exhorts his readers: ‘All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future - all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.’ How do you understand these words? Work together to paraphrase them.</p>
Working it out	<p>Consider how the evening has challenged each of you personally, sharing what you are happy to. Get into some prayer together - either staying as a whole group or splitting into pairs.</p>