



LifeGroup Discussion Packet

“Finish Strong with Eternal Impact”

1 Corinthians 16

November 22 and 23, 2025

Attached...

1. Discussion Questions: Long study (page 2-6)
2. Discussion Questions: Short study (page 7)
3. Five Day Devotional Guide (page 8-10)

Notice to LifeGroup Leaders

Based on the needs of your group, use either long or short study

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

(Long Study)

Question #1

"This isn't a sprint. It's a lifelong race. A marathon of faith, obedience, mission... You cannot fulfill God's mission without courage... Whenever heaven moves, hell mobilizes. The strength of spiritual opposition is often evidence of spiritual opportunity" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). Despite oppositions, Paul always saw in them a *door of opportunity* (**1 Cor. 16:9; Acts 14:27**). For Paul, he continued to reason with naysayers (**Acts 19:9**). How have you endured this year through various opposing forces (**Heb. 12:1**)?

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 (NLT)

⁸In the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost. ⁹There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.

Acts 14:27 (ESV)

²⁷And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

Acts 19:9 (ESV)

⁹But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, He withdrew from them and took the disciples with Him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

Write your answer here:

Question #2

"God is our provider, not our budget. That's exactly what Paul wanted for the Corinthians. And it's what God wants for us" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). There was a famine in Jerusalem and the Corinthians pledged to help (**1 Cor. 16:1-2**). However, the church delayed sending what they had promised, so Paul gave examples of what other churches had done (**2 Cor. 8:1-3**), and encouraged the Corinthians to make good on their word (v. 11)! What will happen at Compass if we essence of giving and generosity that was found in **Acts 2:44-45**?

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NLT)

¹Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. ²On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.

2 Corinthians 8:1-3,11 (ESV)

¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord... ¹¹So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.

Acts 2:44-45 (NLT)

⁴⁴And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

Write your answer here:

Question #3

There are all kinds of people fulfilling the call of God in their lives, and yet they are very different from one another. "Some of you are bold. Some of you are quiet. Some of you are new to the faith...But all of you have a role to play in God's mission" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). Timothy was young and impressionable (**1 Cor. 16:10; 1 Tim. 4:12**), while Apollos was determined and eloquent (**1 Cor. 16:12; Acts 18:24**). How has God gifted you? How can you use your gifts to finish well?

1 Corinthians 16:10-12 (NLT)

¹⁰When Timothy comes, don't intimidate him. He is doing the Lord's work, just as I am. ¹¹Don't let anyone treat him with contempt. Send him on his way with your blessing when he returns to me. I expect him to come with the other believers. ¹²Now about our brother Apollos—I urged him to visit you with the other believers, but he was not willing to go right now. He will see you later when he has the opportunity.

1 Timothy 4:12 (ESV)

¹²Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Acts 18:24 (ESV)

²⁴Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures.

Write your answer here:

Question #4

Consider all the texts below and focus on words like being on 'guard', 'standing firm/fast', 'courageous', 'strong'. Which verse stands out to you the most? How can this verse help you *finish strong*? What role, if any, does a verse like **Matthew 24:42** play in your preparedness?

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NLT)

¹³Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. ¹⁴And do everything with love.

Philippians 1:27 (ESV)

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

1 Thessalonians 3:6-8 (ESV)

⁶But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— ⁷for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. ⁸For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.

Psalms 31:24 (ESV)

²⁴Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!

Ephesians 6:10 (EV)

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

Matthew 24:42 (ESV)

⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Write your answer here:

Question #5

Twice Apostle Paul speaks of those who were the first to come to Christ in Asia. It is believed Epaphroditus was likely a slave (**Rom. 16:5**) in Stephanas' household (**1 Cor. 1:16; 16:15**). That Stephanas' household was *spending their lives* (**1 Cor. 16:15**) "means devoting energy, time, and heart toward the good of others for the sake of the gospel...everyone remembers Paul, but Paul

remembers Stephanas" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). Spend the time remembering and making note of all the people who impacted you that the world may never know. What are their names? Share their story with your group.

1 Corinthians 16:15-16 (NLT)

¹⁵You know that Stephanas and his household were the first of the harvest of believers in Greece, and they are spending their lives in service to God's people. I urge you, dear brothers and sisters, ¹⁶to submit to them and others like them who serve with such devotion.

1 Corinthians 1:13-16 (ESV)

¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

Romans 16:5 (ESV)

⁵Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.

Write your answer here:

Question #6

Paul ends his letter with the idea of greeting each other with a *holy kiss* (1 Cor. 16:20; Rom. 16:16). It was and is still common in many eastern European and Middle Eastern to express sincere affection in this manner. This was a very relational practice. "At the end of the day, the only thing you take to heaven with you is people" (Pastor T.K. Anderson). Another aspect of Paul's manner of discipleship and partnering with others can be seen in his use of an *amanuensis* [secretary] (1 Cor. 16:21; Rom. 16:22; Gal. 6:11; Col. 4:18). How are you partnering with others to carry God's message forward?

1 Corinthians 16:20-24 (ESV)

²⁰All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. ²¹I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. ²²If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! ²³The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. ²⁴My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Romans 16:16 (ESV)

¹⁶Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:22 (ESV)

²²I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.

Galatians 6:11 (ESV)

¹¹See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

Colossians 4:18 (ESV)

¹⁸I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Write your answer here:

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

(Short Study)

Main Idea: Finishing strong isn't about talent or speed; it's about faithfulness. Godly people live with eternal purpose, stay focused on the mission, and invest in people who will outlast everything else.

Key Verse: *"Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love."* 1 Corinthians 16:13–14 (NLT)

Warm-Up Question

Think of someone in your life who has "finished well," someone who stayed faithful to Jesus over many years. What impact did their example have on you?

Discussion Questions

1. Giving With Eternal Purpose - Paul begins the final chapter with instructions about a weekly rhythm of generosity.
 - Why do you think Paul ends the letter this way?
 - How has a rhythm of giving shaped your heart or spiritual growth?
2. Open Doors and Opposition - Read 1 Corinthians 16:8-9. Paul faced a "wide-open door" and "many opposing" him at the same time.
 - Where have you seen opportunities and opposition show up together in your life?
 - How does that shape your faith and courage?
3. Staying on Mission- Paul gives travel plans, leadership updates, and ministry instructions all pointing toward mission focus.
 - What are the biggest distractions or "mission drift" temptations you face today?
 - How can you stay centered on what matters most?
4. Courage + Love = Credible Witness- Paul commands the church to "be courageous" AND "do everything with love."
 - Why do we need both?
 - Which one comes more naturally to you... courage or love?
5. Investing in People - Paul ends 1 Corinthians with names... Stephanas, Priscilla, Aquila, Timothy, and others.
 - Who has invested in your spiritual life in a way that has left a lasting mark?
 - Who might God be calling you to invest in this season?
6. Godly vs. Ungodly View of People - The message said, "The ungodly world sees people as tools to be used. The godly life sees people as souls to be loved and invested in."
 - Where do you see this contrast in our culture?
 - How can the church live differently?
7. Finishing Strong - Paul's final message is clear: finish strong.
 - What is one specific step of faith, generosity, serving, obedience, or surrender God is calling you to take before the year ends?

Going Deeper

Look back over all 12 weeks of Living Godly in an Ungodly World. Which message shaped you the most, and how is God calling you to put it into practice moving forward?

Next Step

Ask God each morning this week, *"Lord, help me finish strong today. Show me one person to encourage, one way to be generous, and one opportunity to live on mission."* Finishing strong doesn't happen someday; it happens one faithful step at a time.

Five Day Devotional Guide

November 24-28, 2025

Day 1: Godly People Give with Eternal Purpose

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (NASB)

An *eternal weight of glory* awaits us. We may not see the dividends come in from all the investing we make in this life for God. But in due season we will reap, if we faint not (**Gal. 6:9**). In the end, reality will not be defined by what *we* see but by what *God* sees.

Reflection: And so, Lord, while it is true that the more I give, the more return on investment I may have, let my focus simply be on You. I can never out give You! It is enough that You took the little of gave, whether it was money or time or encouragement and You grew it in ways I could only *imagine*.

Day 2: Godly People Live on Mission with Courage

Joshua 1:9

⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (NASB)

There simply is not place a believer can go and God is not present. Repeatedly the believer is told to not fear, for God is with him (**Is. 41:10; Deut. 31:6; Ps. 23:4**). In fact, Apostle Paul says, *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?* (**Rom. 8:31**)

Reflection: My Lord, and my God, let these words give me courage today:

⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"
¹² Even the darkness is not dark to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike *to You* (**Psalms 139:7-12**).

Day 3: Godly People Remain Focused on God

Colossians 3:1-4

¹Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. (NASB)

There is simply no way to focus on God by focusing on the mundane, the earthly. Oliver Wendell Holmes is reported as saying that people can be "*So heavenly minded and no earthly good*". While it is true that our spirituality should be seen through how we treat others on earth, there is *nothing on earth* that will guide us to do so, *therefore*, we must go to God, to Heaven itself.

Reflection: Holy Father, today I will *keep seeking the things above, where Christ is...* and will set my *mind on the things above*. You are my only Help. You are my only Refuge from the earthly, the base, the fallen, the ungodly.

Day 4: Godly People Recognize Complementary Gifts in Others

1 Corinthians 12:29-31

²⁹All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* miracles, are they? ³⁰All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? ³¹ But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way. (NASB)

God never said we would all, as individual believers, be granted *every* single spiritual gift. We all do not *need* to teach or heal or speak with other languages. We are one body made up of many members and if we are to do the work of Christ, we cannot bicker and bite and carry a sense of superiority in the use of spiritual gifts. They are given as the *Spirit* wills. They are *His* not ours.

Reflection: In whatever way You have given my brothers and sisters to operate in the faith, ways in which I *may not* be gifted, help me and show me how to *encourage* them in their own specific calling. So that You can get the *best* from them that You have intended, Lord.

Day 5: Godly People Finish Well by Investing in Others

Philippians 2:3-4

³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (NASB)

My growth as a Christian is tied inexorably to the growth and development of those others in the household of faith. I do not increase in spirituality if my brothers and sisters stop progressing in the faith. Part of my ethos ought to be humility, the opposite of condescension. What a spiritual blessing it is to expend our efforts towards the growth of others, see them flourish and know innately that this is what we ought to be doing.

Reflection: How often it is, Lord, that You grace us with this feeling of accomplishment when we see others grow. Let me reflect upon these words today:

¹⁹ For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy (1 Thess. 2:19-20).