

# TAKEAWAY

## Real Life Church

### THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE CROSS

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019

#### INTRODUCTION

Paul was writing to a church that had divided into cliques and factions. He urged them to stop splitting, and to unite around Jesus. But then he continues on in this passage to split the world into two distinct groups – those who are saved, and those who have rejected the cross, are unable to see the wisdom of God and are convinced there's a better way to live.

#### READ

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

1 Corinthians 2:1-10

#### DISCUSS

1. Paul split the world into two groups – the saved and those heading for destruction. How do you feel about that split? How comfortable would you be talking in those terms to your friends who aren't Christians? What do you think they might push back with? How might you explain it to them?

2. Paul was writing into a culture that rated intellectualism, reason and order. The idea that God would submit to the enemy and die, seemed crazy. Even the Jews had

expected a heroic warrior to come to their rescue. No one had expected a savior like Jesus. Think back to when you came to know Jesus – what surprised you?

3. 2,000 years later, what are the 'wisdoms' that are prevalent in our culture? Where do you see this at work?

4. Paul says that God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise. When have you been inspired by 'the foolish or the weak'?

5. Paul reminds his readers that they were nothing special when they were called to follow Jesus, yet God still invited them into the privilege of partnering with Him in His mission to save the

world. Where or when do you feel weak, inadequate or foolish?

6. When have you experienced God stepping in to be strength in your weakness?

7. Are there areas of your life in which you know you've reached the end of your resources? Why not pray together about those and ask God to be your strength.

8. Are there some areas of your life where actually you feel very confident, perhaps you put some of your identity in these 'strengths'? Take some time to submit these to God, in recognition that you are nothing without Jesus and the cross.

