

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NIV)

Nothing To Boast About

That is obvious to me. **What is obvious to you?** I have nothing to boast about. **Why is that so obvious to you?** Before I came to know you, I was nothing special. I did not stand out from the crowd. Far from it, before I came to receive you as my Savior and Lord, my life was bruised and battered and broken. Anyone taking a close look would have said that my life was a mess. In fact, some did say exactly that. So, I know that everything I have, everything I am, and everything I hope to be has and will come from you. You have showered me with your goodness, kindness, mercy and love. You have withheld no good thing from me. Have I always gotten what I wanted? No, but, I haven't always wanted what was good for me. You have given me gifts of value that are beyond compare. **Like what?** You have given me your salvation. You have given me your forgiveness and cleansing. You have become my righteousness, holiness and redemption. You have adopted me into your family. You have made me to be your child. You have made it so I can come to know and love you. You are helping me to live in an intimate relationship with you. You are helping me to follow and serve you. None of things have come from myself. None of these things have been earned or merited by my efforts. You have given all of these things to me as a gift. **That's true.** But you have given me even more. **What else?** You have given me your Spirit. You have made me alive in you. You have given me an inheritance in heaven. You have a place in heaven prepared for me. **Yes, I do.** For all of these things I am thankful beyond words that I can adequately express. **That is very good.**

What would you like to do now? I would like to brag about you. **What?** How can I contain myself? How can I remain silent? How can I not go and tell others about your goodness, kindness, mercy and love? I cannot remain silent. I must speak up. I want to be your witness in the world. I would like others to receive all that you have given to me. I want others to be able to come to know and love and follow and serve you. I want you to be able to do for others all that you have done for me. **That is very good.**

Lord, I was not wise, special or outstanding when you drew me to yourself. You took me off my dark path. You became my Savior and Lord. I give you thanks and praise for rescuing me from a life without you. I will testify to your goodness, kindness and mercy. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Boast In The Lord*

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

NIV 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Becoming Like Christ *Boast Only About The Lord*

Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."

NLT 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Becoming Like Christ *Boast In The Lord*

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

NRSV 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Becoming Like Christ *Glory In The Lord*

For [simply] consider your own call, brethren; not many [of you were considered to be] wise according to human estimates and standards, not many influential and powerful, not many of high and noble birth. [No] for God selected (deliberately chose) what in the world is foolish to put the wise to shame, and what the world calls weak to put the strong to shame. And God also selected (deliberately chose) what in the world is lowborn and insignificant and branded and treated with contempt, even the things that are nothing, that He might depose and bring to nothing the things that are. So that no mortal man should [have pretense for glorying and] boast in the presence of God. But it is from Him that you have your life in Christ Jesus, Whom God made our Wisdom from God, [revealed to us a knowledge of the divine plan of salvation previously hidden, manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin]. So then, as it is written, Let him who boasts and proudly rejoices and glories, boast and proudly rejoice and glory in the Lord.

AMP 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Becoming Like Christ *Boast In The Lord*

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

NASB 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Becoming Like Christ *Boast In The Lord*

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

ESV 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Becoming Like Christ *Glory In The Lord*

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-- that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

NKJV 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Becoming Like Christ *Blow A Trumpet For God*

Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. Everything that we have--right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start--comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God."

MSG 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Becoming Like Christ *Boast Only Of What The Lord Has Done*

Notice among yourselves, dear brothers, that few of you who follow Christ have big names or power or wealth. Instead, God has deliberately chosen to use ideas the world considers foolish and of little worth in order to shame those people considered by the world as wise and great. He has chosen a plan despised by the world, counted as nothing at all, and used it to bring down to nothing those the world considers great, so that no one anywhere can ever brag in the presence of God. For it is from God alone that you have your life through Christ Jesus. He showed us God's plan of salvation; he was the one who made us acceptable to God; he made us pure and holy and gave himself to purchase our salvation. As it says in the Scriptures, "If anyone is going to boast, let him boast only of what the Lord has done."

TLB 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Becoming Like Christ *Brag Only About The Lord*

Brothers and sisters, look at what you were when God called you. Not many of you were wise in the way the world judges wisdom. Not many of you had great influence. Not many of you came from important families. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and he chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose what the world thinks is unimportant and what the world looks down on and thinks is nothing in order to destroy what the world thinks is important. God did this so that no one can brag in his presence. Because of God you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God. In Christ we are put right with God, and have been made holy, and have been set free from sin. So, as the Scripture says, "If someone wants to brag, he should brag only about the Lord."

NCV 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Boast In The Lord

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

In Context: Read 1 Corinthians 1

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: *(What is God speaking to your heart?)*

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NIV)

Considering The Words: *(What words speak to your heart?)*

Brothers, | think of what | you were | when you | were called. | Not many | of you | were wise | by human standards; | not many | were influential; | not many | were of | noble birth. | But God chose | the foolish things | of | the world | to shame | the wise; | God chose | the weak things | of the world | to shame the strong. | He chose | the lowly things | of this world | and t| he despised things--| and | the things | that are not--| to nullify the things | that are, | so that | no one | may boast | before him. | It is | because of him | that you are | in Christ Jesus, | who has become | for us | wisdom from God | --that is, | our righteousness, | holiness | and | redemption. | Therefore, | as it is written: | "Let him | who boasts | boast in | the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: *(What prayer from your heart will you write?)*

Lord, I was not wise, special or outstanding when you drew me to yourself. You took me off my dark path. You became my Savior and Lord. I give you thanks and praise for rescuing me from a life without you. I will testify to your goodness, kindness and mercy. Amen

What It Means: *(What questions speak to your heart?)* (Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

What was your life like before the Lord drew you to Himself?

Why do you have nothing to brag about regarding who you or what you have done?

How has and will every good thing that you are, have done or hope to be come from the Lord?

How are you making it a pattern in your life to give thanks for all that the Lord has done for you?

How are you making it a pattern in your life to testify to the goodness, kindness, and mercy of the Lord?

Why is it a very good thing that the Lord is your righteousness, holiness and redemption?

How has the Lord been changing your heart, transforming your mind and guiding your life since became His follower?

Living It Out: *(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)*

Humbly give thanks for and bear witness to God's goodness, kindness and mercy.

Seeing It Happen: *(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)*

Have faith that the Lord chose you and has become your righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Get Ready To Share: *(What can you share with others from your heart?)*

Share with another person or your small group how you are bearing witness to God's goodness, kindness and mercy.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you humbly give thanks and bear witness to the goodness, kindness and mercy of the Lord.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I humbly give thanks for and will bear witness to your goodness, kindness and mercy.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I give thanks for and bear witness to your goodness, kindness and mercy today?
