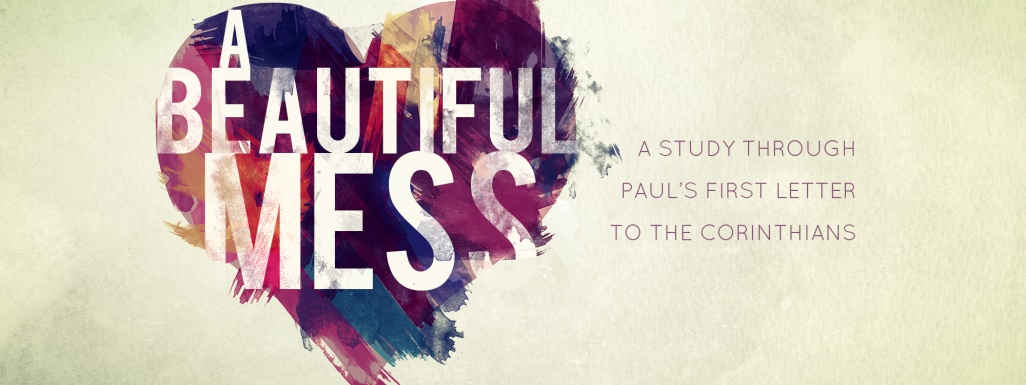
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*Opening*

1. Share a situation where you felt the foolishness of the gospel?

*Going Deeper*

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 together

1. Why was the message of the cross so foolish to Greeks and Jews?
2. What makes it so foolish for Canadians today? (think of specific people you know and what they would say)
3. The temptation for the Christians in Corinth was to avoid talking about the cross and focus on things that are more palatable to their culture (like spiritual gifts)   
   1. What are some ways that we do the same thing today?
   2. In our passage, why is it so important that the Corinthian believers keep their focus on the cross?
   3. Many Christians today feel the tension of believing in Jesus, yet still desiring to safely into our culture without being criticized/marginalized.   
      1. How do you experience this tension in your own life?
      2. How does this passage speak into this tension?

1. Read verse 26-29: Why do you think God chose weak and ordinary people to be his messengers to the “wise” and “strong”?  
   1. Church historians agree that in the first century, the gospel spread primarily through ordinary people living and sharing the gospel in ordinary ways. What opportunities do you see in your everyday life for sharing the gospel?
2. Reflect together on the following quote by Charles Spurgeon:
   1. “*A great many learned men are defending the gospel; no doubt it is a very proper and right thing to do, yet I always notice that, when there are most books of that kind, it is because the gospel itself is not being preached. Suppose a number of persons were to take it into their heads that they had to defend a lion, a full-grown king of beasts! There he is in the cage, and here come all the soldiers of the army to fight for him. Well, I should suggest to them, if they would not object, and feel that it was humbling to them, that they should kindly stand back, and open the door, and let the lion out! I believe that would be the best way of defending him, for he would take care of himself; and the best “apology” for the gospel is to let the gospel out. Never mind about defending Deuteronomy or the whole of the Pentateuch; preach Jesus Christ and him crucified. Let the Lion out, and see who will dare to approach him…the Word of God can take care of itself, and will do so if we preach it”*
   2. How does this quote encourage you?

*Close in Prayer*