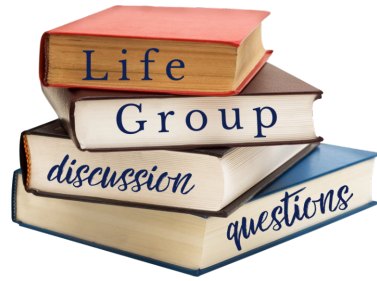


OPENING DISCUSSION

Imagine you are in an elevator with a person who is willing to hear the gospel. How would you explain the gospel in 2 minutes or less?



SERMON

How does Paul describe the gospel in 1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:2? How is this different from how the gospel is typically described in churches today?

Why are Christians and the gospel “foolish” to the world?

What is pragmatism and why is it so dangerous to the church?

How can embracing the foolishness of the gospel help you boast in the power of God?

Why is Paul’s emphasis on the cross so important to him? How does this apply to us today?

APPLICATION

How do you respond when people think that Christianity is foolish?

What are some ways that Christians try to make the gospel less foolish? Why is there always the temptation to compromise the gospel in this way?

What are some things in the church that distract us from the gospel?

How can focusing on the gospel help you to avoid compromising your values in the church and the world?

Why does Paul admit that he is not always an eloquent speaker? Why does the world seem to value eloquence over truth?

How can you focus on the centrality of the gospel, Jesus, and the cross in your life this year?

Not a part of a Life Group at North Hills? Visit the church website and check out the different groups currently meeting. When you see one that interests you, click on the link provided and know that everyone will be glad you came!
<https://church.north-hills.org/connect/small-group-ministry>

NORTH HILLS CHURCH

- 1/2/22 -



For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 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.” And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. *1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:2 (ESV)*

NORTH HILLS CHURCH

200 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo, CA 94591 • (707) 644-5286 • north-hills.org

2021-2022 Sermon Series: Authentic

Authentic Church: Gospel Focused

1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:2

AUTHENTIC PRINCIPLE:

An authentic church _____ and _____ the true gospel.

1. A gospel-focused church emphasizes Jesus as the _____ of the _____.

2. A gospel-focused church emphasizes the _____ as God's _____ of saving people.

RESPONSE:

Are you a gospel _____ Christian?

Read the entire Bible chronologically in a year

See the church newsletter for this week's Bible reading passages

(<https://church.north-hills.org/newsletters/weekly-newsletter>)



Collecting food for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

North Hills is collecting non-perishable food to help people in need throughout the community. According to their website, an astounding 1 in 9 residents turn to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano for emergency and supplemental food. For those who are unable to make ends meet, the Food Bank helps cover one of life's basic needs — nutritious food.

You will find a large barrel at the **main entrance** and **senior parking lot entrance** of the Worship Center. Together, let's demonstrate God's love by filling both barrels. Whether you bring food from home or buy extra food the next time you are at a grocery store, contribute what you can so we can support the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano help people experiencing hunger or food insecurity in the community.

Upward Basketball

The last day to register for Upward is **Saturday, January 8**. For details, go to church.north-hills.org/upward-basketball.



Player Evaluations:

January 11 (6:00 - 8:00 p.m.)
January 15 (9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Parent Orientation:

February 13

First Practice:

Week of February 21

First Game:

March 5

Online Old Testament Survey Course

Starting January 9, Gateway ADVANCE at North Hills will meet on Sundays from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. and Tuesdays from 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. The instructor is David Quitevis. To check out the course syllabus, go to church.north-hills.org/connect/gateway-advance. If you have any questions or would like to register for the class, email David at iqdq@yahoo.com.

Outdoor Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings

Parents and guardians, we ask that you go to the **main entrance** of the Worship Center to check your child in. After service, please go to the Preschool Playground in a timely fashion to check your child out. While our Sunday morning Children's Worship is designed for children, it is not mandatory children attend. Parents and guardians are welcome to keep their children with them in the Worship Center if they prefer.

Communication Cards and Offering Envelopes

At the **main entrance** and **senior parking lot entrance** of the Worship Center, you will find special new boxes when you leave today. If you have filled out a Communication Card or Offering Envelope, please insert them into either of the boxes (please note the boxes will remain out for 15 minutes after the service). For those who prefer to contribute online, simply go to north-hills.org and click on Support NH or text GIVE to (707) 289-7600.