

Discovering God on Route 66

LESSON #52

BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS

PREPARATION: Review **I Corinthians 15:20-24, 32, 33** to be ready to teach the children.

Pray for the children who are part of your class.

Find a two minute timer to time the children holding their breath.

Write I Corinthians 15:33 on the board or on a poster so that all the children can read it aloud together.

Gather materials for the demonstration. You'll need: 2 clear glasses, water, food coloring, a dropper.

Prepare questions for the game at the end of the lesson. There are 22 suggested questions to add to and/or change.

Use cardstock to copy the chart with the words to **I Corinthians 15:33** plus 9 other words. Make a copy for each of the 2 or 3 teams you will have. Cut the words apart and put them in separate boxes for each of the 2 or 3 teams.

Make copies of the FUNSHEET to pass out to the children at the end of class.

PRAY: Ask a volunteer to start today's lesson with prayer.

OPEN: Let the children know that after reading and discussing several verses from the 15th chapter of I Corinthians they will be playing a game. Questions for the game will come from the Bible and from the discussion time, so they should pay attention!

Explain to the children that this is the second to last week we will be studying the book of I Corinthians. Paul, who wrote the book, has a very important message to tell the people living in Corinth!

“What happened to Jesus during Passover on the hill of Calvary when He was 33 years old?” (*He was killed on a cross.*)

“What happened three days later?” (*Jesus rose from the dead.*)

“What word starts with ‘R’ and means to be raised from the dead?” (*Resurrection.*)

“You see, many of the people in the city of Corinth did not believe their bodies would be resurrected. Do you think they were right? (*Accept responses.*) Let’s read in I Corinthians and find out.”

READ: Have 3 volunteers read **I Corinthians 15:20-22**.

Verse 20:

“Who is Paul saying has been raised from the dead?” (*Jesus Christ.*)

“Who are ‘those who have fallen asleep’?” (*People who have already died. Mainly they are talking about other believers.*)

“What do you think of when you hear the 2 words ‘first’ and ‘fruit’?” (*First is the number one and fruit is something to eat.*)

“What does Paul mean that Jesus Christ was the ‘firstfruits’?” (*When farming the first crops that were produced and gathered when ripe were called the ‘firstfruits’. These crops were given to God as a reminder that God is in control and gives us all that we have. Jesus being the ‘firstfruits’ showed that He was the first to be raised from the dead and go to Heaven, and more will follow.*)

Verse 21:

“Read through verse 21 to yourselves. What 2 very different things have each come through a man?” (*Death and Resurrection or Being raised from the dead.*)

“That sounds kind of confusing that death came through a man. Can you believe that because of one man we all will one day face death?” (*Answers vary.*)

“Who do you think this one man is who has brought death?” (*Let the children guess but don’t tell them yet.*)

“Who do you think is the one man is who has brought life? Do you think it’s the same person?” (*Various answers.*)

“Let’s look at verse 22 to see if we can find the answers.”

Verse 22:

“Now who do you think is the one man who has brought death?” (*Adam.*)

“Who was Adam?” (*He was the first man created by God. He lived in the Garden of Eden with Eve. When he sinned he not only brought death to himself, but to every person ever born! We all inherit his sin nature.*)

“Who is the one who has brought life?” (*Jesus Christ.*)

“How does Jesus bring us life instead of death?” (*By dying on the cross for our sins we can be forgiven and become Christians. Though we may die on earth, we will be resurrected when Christ returns!*)

Option: Read and discuss verse 23 that again reinforced Christ as the firstfruits and how we will be raised when He returns.

Talk about how Jesus rose from the dead and how important that is to Christians for several reasons:

- We know Jesus is God. Only God can raise people from the dead.

- We know Jesus lives and prays for us like He promised He would.
- We know that we will also rise from the dead one day.

DISCUSS: Share with the children about how we should live since we know that even though we may die one day here on earth, we will live forever in Heaven. ASK:

"Is 2 minutes a long time?" *(No.)*

"Who thinks they could hold their breath for 2 minutes?" *(Take volunteers. If there are none, then accept volunteers for 1 1/2 minutes, etc.)*

Time several people as they hold their breath. *(The more the better.)* You will need to make sure no one cheats and sneaks a breath. The idea is to show how 1 or 2 minutes can seem like a very, very long time when you're holding your breath.

Next, draw a very short line segment on the board. Explain to the children that this line segment represents a person's life here on earth. Now draw a very long ray underneath the line segment. Make the end of the ray go all the way to the end of the board. Talk about how much longer Christians will live in Heaven compared to life here on earth. Some times it may seem like our life here on earth is very, very long. Actually it is a very brief time compared to eternity!!

Now talk about how since we know we will be living forever with Christ, how should we be living? Tell the children how some people back in Paul's lifetime thought that life here on earth was all there was. They did not believe in Heaven. Let a volunteer read **I Corinthians 15:32** to see what these people thought about how to live. Explain what is meant by "Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die." Talk about how those people did not care about pleasing and obeying God. They only cared about themselves and whatever felt good or fun at the moment. Also, talk about how Paul was quoting a verse from the Old Testament - Isaiah 22:13. Obviously people during Isaiah's lifetime must have thought the same way. ASK:

"Do you think there are any people today who believe that there is no life after this life on earth?" *(Yes, there are many of them.)*

"Do you know of any people who don't care about God or anyone else? They only care about pleasing themselves and what is fun for the moment?" *(You may want to give examples of pleasure for the moment like drugs, making fun of others, trying to earn the most money, watching bad shows on TV, eating only junk food, etc.)*

Hold up **I Corinthians 15:33** and have all the children read it together.

Discuss how hanging around the "wrong crowd" can cause you to start believing the wrong things. For example, if you spent a lot of time with people who just wanted to "Eat and drink for tomorrow we die" then soon you would start acting like them.

DEMONSTRATION: Show the children a clear glass with clean water in it. Next show them a clear glass with dark colored water that you have put food coloring in. Explain that the clear water represents a person with good thoughts and ideas and the colored water represents a person with bad thoughts and

ideas. Now use a dropper to get some of the colored water and place the dropper in the other glass.

ASK:

"Do the good people have clean thoughts anymore?" (*No.*)

"What happens the longer the good people hang around the bad people?" (*Their thoughts and ideas get more and more like the bad people.*)

Make 2 lists on a poster or blackboard. Put the headings "Hang Around People Who" and "Don't Hang Around People Who". Write down the children's suggestions. Ideas may include:

HANG AROUND PEOPLE WHO:	DON'T HANG WITH PEOPLE WHO:
Are Christians	Lie
Go to church	Use drugs
Tell the truth	Steal
Love others	Cuss
Are kind	Get you in trouble
Have self-control	Do not believe in God

GAME: It's exciting that we will be resurrected on day with Jesus, but until then, we need to know how to live here on earth. Help the children memorize the verse **I Corinthians 15:33** by playing a game together.

PREP: Copy the words in the chart below on cardstock. Make a copy for each team. (*Two or three teams at most are recommended.*) Cut the words apart and place the 18 words for each team in a box. Review the suggested questions and add/delete questions as needed.

PLAY: Tell the children that the words to the verse you just discussed have gotten mixed up with the wrong crowd of words!! You need each team's help to get the right words out from hanging around with the wrong crowd. In order to get the opportunity to select words from the box the teams must correctly answer the questions!

Start with one player from the first team. Ask the first question. If she answers the question correctly (*she may ask for help from her team*), then she gets to come up and draw 2 words from her team's box. If either of the words is not part of the Bible verse and thus a bad influence, she must do 10 jumping jacks. Then, the wrong words can be thrown in the trash. Correct words should be taken back to the team where they will eventually get all the words and place them in the correct order.

If the question is not answered correctly, then the other team gets the opportunity to try to answer it correctly.

The winning team is the team to get all 9 correct words in order first!

CLOSE: Explain the FUNSHEET. If there is time remaining sing a song or begin working on FUNSHEETS. Dismiss with prayer.

**Do not be misled:
“Bad company
corrupts good
character.”**

I Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

QUESTIONS:

- 1- What happened to Jesus during Passover on the hill of Calvary when He was 33 years old?" *(He was killed on a cross.)*
- 2 - What happened three days later? *(Jesus rose from the dead.)*
- 3 - What word starts with 'R' and means to be raised from the dead?" *(Resurrection.)*
- 4 – What did the people from Corinth believe about their resurrection? *(Their bodies wouldn't be resurrected.)*
- 5 – Were the Corinthians right? *(No.)*
- 6 – Who wrote the book of I Corinthians? *(Paul.)*
- 7 – Who are 'those who have fallen asleep'? *(People who have already died.)*
- 8 – What did Paul say that Jesus Christ was that begins with an 'F'?" *(Firstfruits.)*
- 9 – Why did people start using the term 'firstfruits'? *(Farmers gave their first crops to God as a reminder that God is in control and gives us all that we have.)*
- 10 – What is meant by Jesus being the firstfruits? *(Jesus being the 'firstfruits' showed that He was the first to be raised from the dead and go to Heaven, and more will follow.)*
- 11 – As Christians, what will happen to us when Christ returns? *(We will be resurrected.)*
- 12 – Who was the one man who has brought death? *(Adam.)*
- 13 – Who was Adam? *(The first man created by God. He lived in the Garden of Eden with Eve. His sin not only brought death to himself, but to every person ever born! We all inherit his sin nature.)*
- 14 – Who is the one who has brought life? *(Jesus Christ.)*
- 15 – How does Jesus bring us life instead of death? *(By dying on the cross for our sins we can be forgiven and become Christians.)*
- 16 – Why is life on earth short though it can seem long to us? *(Compared to living forever in Heaven, life on earth is very short!)*
- 17 – Does everyone believe in God and obeying God? *(No.)*
- 18 – What is a common saying of people in Bible times and sometime now that do not believe in living for God? *("Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die.")*
- 19 – What happens if we hang around the "wrong people"? *(Our thoughts ideas get more like theirs.)*
- 20 – What should people we hang around with be like? *(Believe in God, Love others, Moral, Go to church, tell the truth, etc.)*

21 – What are characteristics of people that we should not spend a lot of time with? *(Those who do not believe in God, cuss, steal, watch bad shows, etc.)*

22 – When is 2 minutes a long time? *(When trying to hold your breath!)*

Do	Drugs
not	Cheating
be	Lies
misled:	Cruelty
“Bad	Trouble
company	Hate
corrupts	Cussing
good	Sin
character.”	Stealing