

Title: Mr. Jesus' Classroom // **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 4:1-21

ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME *15-20 minutes*

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

SERMON REVIEW *5-10 minutes*

What would it look like to be in Mr. Jesus' classroom this year? In 1 Corinthians 4, Paul addresses the people of Corinth and challenges their worldview (grading rubric) which focuses on flashiness—wealth, position, prestige. He instead suggests that Jesus has a different grading rubric and an entirely different set of course goals. Yet Jesus is neither a ruthless educator nor a boring instructor but a Powerful Guide who sets the perfect example to follow.

THE MAIN THOUGHT *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

Jesus' classroom leads to transformation through imitation.

SEE IT – Questions *10-15 minutes*

Picture (What is the story saying?): What is Jesus looking for as He “grades our report cards”? As Jesus sets the course goals, we realize that there is purpose in persecution and hardship. What did Paul say was the benefit of believers being “scum” and “refuse”? Read 1 Cor. 4:20. Jesus' classroom is not simply about regurgitating information. What did Paul say the kingdom of God was about?

Mirror (Where am I in the story?): What's your current grade in Jesus' classroom? What is your typical response to persecution and hardship? How does 1 Cor. 4 change your perspective? Whose example are you imitating and who is imitating you?

Window (Where am I in the story?): Paul discusses the role of the believer in “purifying” the world by receiving harsh treatment with grace and humility rather than retaliation. If you were to incorporate that idea into your life, how would your relationships at work, school and home be changed?

BE IT – Practice

Change UP // *5 minutes*

As we've seen in this passage, Jesus is the Ultimate Teacher. Not only does He grade with grace, but He sets the perfect example in how to follow his lesson plans. Spend some time thanking him for his wisdom, plans and example.

Change IN // *15 minutes*

Have 3–4 people share hardship situations. Discuss how they can receive that hardship and set an example for the world through grace and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Change OUT // *5 minutes*

Take some time to pray for local teachers/bus drivers/administrators, etc. Pray that they will know God, develop strong, positive relationships with the students, and have a godly influence.

CLOSING PRAYER *5 minutes*

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.