

## Scripture and Background Information for May 6-12

Group members should use these scriptures to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns in our new Discussion Guide. This assignment should take less than 30 minutes.

### For your group to study and discuss during the week of...

May 6-12	1 Corinthians 4:1-5
May 13-19	Jeremiah 17:5-8

### Background Information for 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

This is the 3rd week in our series called “Silent Killers.” We are looking at four things that can be the silent killers of the Abundant Life that Jesus offers. Worry, loneliness, guilt and insecurity are not the most obvious obstacles to the life of faith in Christ, yet they can be deadly to our souls.

**Before Sunday, May 13,** we would like each group member to personally study 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 and to discuss it as a group.

**1 Corinthians was written by Paul to give correction and instruction** to the church in Corinth that had a lot of issues – including the way they compared and criticized their leaders. In chapter 4 he addresses their misunderstanding of what it means to be a “servant of Christ.” He speaks of how they should think about him and the other teachers like him, and he hopes that they would follow Paul’s example as a servant themselves.

**We can be tempted judge or criticize leaders or other believers, and we may also have the tendency to judge and be too critical of ourselves.** But Paul points out that he is *God’s* servant, not theirs; and they are not allowed to judge another’s servant. He also makes it clear that he cannot even accurately judge himself. Paul’s most important idea is that as servants *of God* we must remember that we serve for the future approval of our Lord rather than for the present praise of people.

#### You might need some clarifications on v1.

- The “mysteries of God” refer to the truths of the faith that had been revealed by Jesus.
- Some translations use the word “steward” (“those entrusted with” in NIV). A steward was a servant whom his master entrusted with carrying out his business. His job was to devote his time, talents, and energy to executing his master’s interests, not his own. The word stresses both the humble position as belonging to Christ and their trusted yet accountable position under God.