



# the Source

*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...*

"Oh the thinks you can think...think and wonder and dream—far and wide as you dare!" I love that line from Seussical's song "Oh the Thinks You Can Think" because it is a reminder that using your mind can be both a wonderful and daring task...maybe even slightly dangerous. It's such a shame that there is a stereotype in the world that Christians fear discovery. And yet, among certain times in our history and in certain Christian circles, we seemed to have earned that stereotype. Because thinking does this beautiful thing of opening you up to new ideas, new ways of thinking, new realms of understanding.

People I meet often find it surprising that I'm a preacher because I seem so *normal*. As it turns out, most of us are. A few years ago I met a man from England through a mutual friend. In his experience the church was just a relic from times long passed. After realizing that I was safe to ask questions of, he said, "Can you tell me about your Christianity...what about science?" I laughed a little and said, "We are *pro-science*." If God created the atom, the cell, micro-organisms, the entire cosmos, then it follows that to pursue scientific discovery is to learn something deeper about the nature of universe and the nature of the one who created it.

Paul encourages the church members in Corinth to take on the mind of Christ. This requires a kind of heart-knowing...a Spirit-confirmed conviction that the stuff of the cosmos is eternally valuable and significant in meaning. From this starting place, the Spirit calls us to jump into discovery...to think new things, as the Seussical encourages. There's an old Caedon's Call lyric that comes to mind: "The truth is a river where the strong can swim down deep. The weak and the broken can walk across so easily."

Rev. Katie Meek, Associate Pastor

## A Family Affair

For the next few weeks, the Family Affair and the sermons will be focusing on different Dr. Seuss stories. *Oh the Thinks You Can Think* is our focus this week: "oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!" We are all born with the ability to think and we can think whatever we wish. Discuss what kind of thoughts God like us to focus on. How do you act and feel when you think sad or negative thoughts? What happens when you think positive thoughts? Read Philippians 4:4-8 and discuss what Paul, the writer, encourages us to focus on.

Even when times are hard, it can be helpful to focus on positive thoughts. When we focus on things that are honorable and pure, we can feel closer to God. Knowing God is with us in good times and hard times can be reassuring. Following a terrible thunderstorm, do you see a rainbow? Would you consider that a God sighting? When your good friend moved to another town, were you able to form a new friendship? Discuss other God sightings you have seen during challenging times. Children's Ministry is celebrating God sightings this summer. We would love for you to add your own God sightings to our board in the Walk of Faith hallway. Use each day as a new opportunity to watch for God.

*Dear God, thank you for the freedom to think whatever we wish! Please help us feel your presence with us daily and to focus on you and think uplifting thoughts. We love you, Lord. Amen.*

— Jennifer Hall, Director of Children's Ministry

## Consider the Source 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

### Monday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-2

For Paul, Christ and him crucified should be (as one commentator puts it) "at the center of the picture and all else takes its definition and proportion with reference to that." This allows the community to then "distinguish between what is important and what is less important or even indifferent."

- Does knowing nothing except Christ and him crucified mean that all other knowledge is unnecessary, or does it rather mean that putting Christ at the center puts all other discovery in proper perspective?
- How does one place Christ at the center? What happens when you do?

### Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Another way of understanding verse 2 is to say that in all of our differences, Christ holds us together.

- How is this true in our church? How is this true in the global Body of Christ? In what ways do we fail to live into this?
- Why do you think Paul makes a distinction between human wisdom and the power of God? What are the deficiencies of human wisdom?
- Why did Paul compare human wisdom with the power of God rather than the wisdom of God? How does Paul's weakness fit into this comparison?

### 1 Corinthians 2:6-9

In my seminary theology class, I learned that the ancients did not think of discovery in the same way as we do now. We expect our highest educated leaders to come up with new ideas never thought of before. Rather, the ancients thought of discovery as a gift from God uncovered or revealed at its appropriate time. The wisdom was always there but hidden until God gave it light and life.

- Have you experienced this in your own spiritual life? How does God reveal new wisdom to you?
- How does it sit with you that God's wisdom might be secret or hidden? What does this reveal about God's character?
- Why does it take maturity to experience this wisdom?

### Thursday: 1 Corinthians 6-16

This is where Paul's language gets a little convoluted and somewhat hard to unpack. Today we focus, then, more on verses 10-12 and verse 16. We don't talk too much about the Spirit, often because it feels a little too "woo woo" (unscientific) for us. And yet Paul insists that the only way we know God's wisdom is through the Spirit.

- What is the Spirit? And how does the Spirit work?
- A hymn describes the Spirit of God as a "restless weaver" connecting, binding together, and weaving justice and peace in the world. How might wisdom be found in this work?
- What does it mean to you to have the Mind of Christ? How does Christ think differently than the rest of the world? Give some examples from the Gospel stories of Jesus' life.

### Friday: Philippians 4:8

This is a scripture that is really about meditation. What we think about becomes our reality. What we meditate on shapes our thinking, feeling, and doing. Today let's meditate on something good. Choose a word that fits your hope for today. Maybe it's one of the fruits of the spirit from last week's Galatians passage. Then spend a minute or two or five sitting quietly breathing that word in and out. If other thoughts come, just acknowledge them and return to your word. Ask the Spirit to reveal God's wisdom in you and your life.