Order and Certainty
1 Corinthians 14:26-40

Big idea: God desires order in the assembly.

Connecting

Plans for Thanksgiving?

Observation

Consider this thought which is not in the Bible – “Cleanliness is next to godliness” – of course, cleanliness is not necessarily next to godliness, but why do you suppose people think this saying has a ring of truth?

What Scriptural teachings can you think of that people find difficult to accept? What might someone in the West find difficult to accept that someone in the east (China…or Saudi Arabia) find easy? Or vice-versa?

Understanding

Read the whole passage from verse 26-40. Where do you see Paul’s desire for orderliness? Brainstorm – why is orderliness so important to God? What does Paul mean when he says, “The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets”? Why did he likely have to say it?

“What Christianity oppresses women.” “Paul is a misogynist.” How do we refute this statement? Talk it through – this is an important apologetic point to be able to make in our culture.

What’s happening in verses 33 – 36? Is it okay for a woman to speak at all in church? (I hope so, but why, in light of these verses?) (Read 1 Corinthians 11:4-6)

Consider 37 and 38. How would you answer someone who believed that prophecy rivals (or egad, cancels) Scripture? Have you ever heard someone say that a particular revelation rivals/cancels Scripture? (Think in matters of family and marriage) Why is it so important to be under the Word of God?

Living

What scriptural teachings do you find hard to accept? Talk it through with one another.

Read Luke 1:28; 42; 48. What made Mary so blessed and favored? How can we find similar blessings? Have you discovered your gift yet?
Looking Ahead: Consider the hymn, “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus.” What passage of Scripture would you choose to go with this?

Prayer together: Pray for Edgewood, that we would be a church where everyone uses his or her gifts!