1. **1 Corinthians 9:12**
* Just to refresh our memory, look back over the previous few verses and share what is this “right” Paul is talking about.
* How could Paul asserting this “right” he has, become an “obstacle to the Gospel of Christ” in your opinion?
* Have you ever witnessed anyone asserting this right, if so, share how it either helped the church or became an “obstacle to the Gospel of Christ”?
1. **1 Corinthians 9:13-14**
* **Ezra 2:68-70, Ezra 7:6-10**
* What did the people provide and what was the purpose of the offerings in the first passage?
* What do these passages say about Ezra and his purpose?
* Does Paul seem to be in a similar situation to Ezra, please explain how?
* **Nehemiah 12:44-47**
* What is being offered here to the Priest and Levites?
* What should we as Catholics be offering to those who serve the Church in your opinion?
* What do you think the purpose of Paul reminding the community about the minister’s rights at the “altar” is?
* Do you think Paul was being supported as well as those who worked in the Temple in the Old Testament, explain why or why not?
* What are those who “preach the gospel” expected to do according to Paul?
* Give an example of a person you know or knew who preached “the gospel” and followed this teaching in the Bible.
* Do you feel those who work within God’s Temple today are taken care of as well as those who served in the Temple of the Old Testament, please explain?
1. **1 Corinthians 9:15**
* What “right” is Paul renouncing in this verse?
* What comes to mind when you read Paul’s response stating, “I would rather die”?
* What does this say about why Paul is motivated to proclaim the Gospel?
* Does his statement strengthen your trust in his testimony or is it negligible?
1. **1 Corinthians 9:16-18**
* Paul states “an obligation has been imposed” on him, what is he trying to say here?
* Do we have an obligation like Paul to proclaim Christ?
* Paul stated there “is no reason for” him “to boast”, why do you believe he stated this, isn’t he doing extra work for God by taking on his role in the church, or is he not?
* What does Paul mean by stating “woe to me if I do not preach it”?
* Does this “woe” of his apply to us too, if we refuse to “preach” the gospel in our lives by what we say and do, share your thoughts?
* Reflect on **verse 17** and share what you believe Paul is saying in your own words.
* What are your thoughts on being offered “the gospel free of charge”?
* How do you think the people viewed Paul for taking this stance, did it earn him some respect, please share your thoughts?
* Share one thing that stood out for you during this study today with the group.