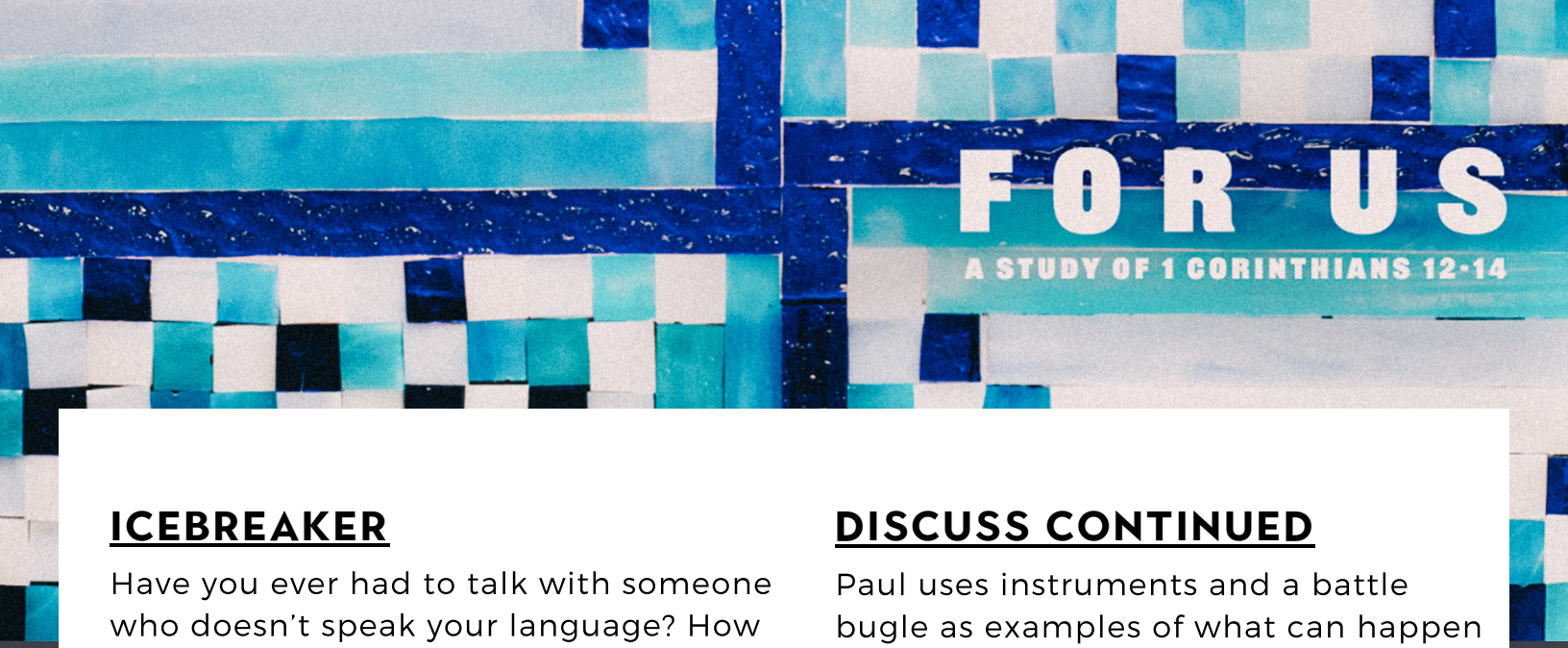

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever had to talk with someone who doesn't speak your language? How beneficial was it? What did you do to try to communicate?

CONTEXT

Paul has written to the Corinthian church about spiritual gifts, especially ones that were causing dissension due to misuse in the church body. He also wrote in the previous chapter about the need for all gifts to flow out of a love for Christ and others. In this passage, Paul is continuing his discussion with the Corinthian church about a specific gift of the Holy Spirit, tongues.

READ

1 Corinthians 14:19

DISCUSS

When you've read this passage in the past or heard it taught, was it clear that the argument Paul made wasn't against tongues in general but the way they were being used publicly? Explain your answer.

DISCUSS CONTINUED

Paul uses instruments and a battle bugle as examples of what can happen to a gathered group of believers when tongues are used without interpretation. Discuss how these examples bring clarity to why interpretation is vital when tongues are used in public.

What does Paul say we are to strive to do? How do the spiritual gifts we have already learned about help do that? How do tongues when used rightly?

At first glance, Paul almost sounds contradictory in verse 18 and 19 but when you look closely it drives his point home. Talk about the difference between those two verses and how it helps us view tongues rightly.

NEXT STEPS

According to Paul, we are to strive to excel at building up the church. What will you commit to pray for this week that will help build up the Church locally and globally?