Week Three: March 2
Writer: Evette Loper Watt, JD, on-campus student

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18–25

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” 20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Reflection:

At the cross, at the cross,  
where I first saw the light  
and the burdens of my heart rolled away;  
it was there by faith I received my sight,  
and now I am happy all the day.  
— Ralph E. Hudson, refrain, “Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed?” 1885

What a wonderful hymn about the mysterious saving grace of the cross.

I do not care to serve a God I can completely figure out. It is humbling to know that God created us in God’s image. In so doing, God is still God, and humankind is humankind bearing the likeness of God. That is a gift. God’s ways remain higher than human ways. There is a safeness in knowing that God is stronger and far more knowledgeable than humankind. Even though God is omniscient, God is yet willing to grant to me wisdom; all I need do is ask (James 1:5). Yet still with all the wisdom attained on loan from the Most High, the human mind explains the cross simply: we are saved by His grace.

Personal Prayer:

Gracious God, how we marvel that it pleased you to create us in your image. Thank you, all-knowing and all-powerful God, for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, first to earth, then to the cross. It is only because of that mystery of the cross that Christ lives in us, demonstrating your power and wisdom. Amen.

Community Prayer Focus:

Pray that the “folly” of the cross would be shared with those who feel farthest from God.

Meeting Idea:

Begin your meeting praying for God’s wisdom to be made clear.