

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 17-23, 2022

"WHY CHURCH?"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What do you often tend to get busy with lately?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Matthew 16:13-18

1. What was Jesus' question to the disciples? Why do you think they thought of Jesus as John the Baptist, Elijah or Jeremiah? What do they have in common and what makes them different from the Messiah?
2. What was so significant about Peter's confession? What kind of a reaction do you suppose Peter had to Jesus' pronouncement in 16:16-19? How would you evaluate Peter's character and reliability if you would base it on these passages?
3. If Jesus were to ask you, "Who do you say I am?" what would you be thinking? How would you respond? What role does Jesus fill in your life?
4. Why is it important to know that the church is NOT the building where people gather but the people who follow Jesus Christ? What difference does knowing that you are a walking church affect your daily responses and relationships with people at work, at school, at home?
5. Jesus owns the church, he names it, he builds it, he owns it and he keeps it. How does this statement give you confidence and comfort as part of the community of believers?
6. Practically, what does it mean to put Christ and his church in the center of your life? What is the biggest obstacle that you personally need to overcome in order to love the church? What would you need to change to do this? How would you model this to the next generation?

7. When you hear of a need in the church, how do you respond? Is it, "What can I do to help?" or "Somebody should do something about that"? (Be honest with your answer.)

8. NEXT STEPS

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
(Hebrews 10:25)*

- ☐ I will remember that I am the church and I ought to use my time and resources to bring more people to Christ.
- ☐ I will remember that God names his church, he builds it, he owns it, best of all, he keeps it.
- ☐ I will commit to regularly join the Sunday services and fellowship with God's people.
- ☐ I will keep in mind that Christ is my firm and strong foundation,
- ☐ I will share Jesus with others, and reach out to my friends and loved ones.

Don't forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a heart that seeks to love the church and to commit to regularly attend church.
- Pray that God will use whatever gift and skill you have to advance his kingdom.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

July 18 1 Timothy 5

July 19 1 John 1:1-4

July 20 Matthew 16:13-20

July 21 John 13:31-35

July 22 Romans 12:3-8

July 23 Psalms 27:1-4

July 24 Ecclesiastes 5:1-7