

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

We Are the Church - Week 3



CONNECT

Spend some time checking in. What are highs and lows since you last met? How can your group members pray for and support each other this week?

GROW

- Talk about the items that have *come and gone* in your life? What do you still have in your basement (old phones, radios, fondu pots)? Do you more commonly look to the past or to the future? Why? What is something "lasting" that's made an impact in your life (friendships, careers, etc.)?
- If the three ingredients to a lifelong faith are worshipping, connecting, and serving, what is important about each one of them to you? Is there one that is more difficult or natural? Why?
- Read a few Bible verses on the back. What sticks out as you think about these questions: *Who am I? What is my purpose? Where do I belong?* Have you answered those questions differently throughout your life? How does culture try to answer those questions for us, and what would a lens of faith say instead?
- If the "message is more important than the method," does that change how you think about worship? If the ultimate expression of faith is service, where is God nudging you to serve? In what ways have you experienced spiritual growth as a result of relationships and connections, inside or outside of this group?

PRAY

God of grace, through love and compassion, you taught us how to be the church. Show us how to lead all people to faith in you, that all may know your love, your light and your peace. Amen.



BIBLE READINGS

PSALM 139:13-18

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.

JOHN 4:21-24

“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

JOHN 13:34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

ACTS 2:42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Then fear came over everyone, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved.

