



The Church

RESTORED



A six week Life Group Study



FALL CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

September 12..... **Week 1:** A Vision Called “the Church” ...

Homework: *Read Ephesians 2*

September 19..... **Week 2:** A Fractured Community.....

Homework: *Read 2 Timothy 2*

September 26..... **Week 3:** The Blueprint of the Church.....

Hmk: *Read Eph. 4; Reflect on Ps. 139:23-24*

October 03..... **Week 4:** The Body of Christ.....

Homework: *Read Phil. 1; List your skills*

October 10..... **Week 5:** The Art of One-Anothering.....

Homework: *Read Matthew 5; Spt. Gift test*

October 17..... **Week 6:** Passing the Baton.....

Homework: *Read Romans 10*

September							October						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

Life Group Commitment

In order to get the most out of this study and create an opportunity for God to work in our hearts and lives, we will make the following five commitments for this six week church-wide campaign:

1. I will make this group a priority.

I will do my best to **be present** at life group every week. Even when I may not feel like it; I am making this group a disciplined habit for this particular season. I will not give in to easy excuses.

2. I will arrive on time and prepared.

I will do my best to arrive promptly at the agreed upon meeting time. I will have engaged with this past Sunday's message and any homework assignments before arriving to life group.

3. I will be an active participant.

I will be willing to answer the questions and discuss. I am willing to be open and vulnerable with the group. I also commit to allow others to share and **not dominate** the conversation.

4. I will respect the privacy of others.

I understand that whatever is shared in the group should remain inside the group. I refuse to participate in gossip or slander.

5. I will pray for and encourage others.

I will **pray for** those in my life group during the week and look for opportunities to build them up with love and encouraging words.

On this rock I will
build MY CHURCH
and the gates of
Hell will NOT
PREVAIL against it.

~ Matthew 16:18



A VISION CALLED CHURCH

THE CHURCH RESTORED | Week 1 - Sept. 12



HOMework (DONE BEFORE GROUP) _____

Read **Ephesians 2**



GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER _____

- 1) **Briefly** introduce yourself to the group. Tell us your name, where you are from, where you work, if you are married, have kids, etc.?
- 2) How long have you been attending Summit Church?



MESSAGE REFLECTION _____

- 1) What was something in this Sunday's message that stood out to you, inspired you, or challenged you?
- 2) What image comes to mind when you hear the word "**church**"?
- 3) What sort of church experience did you have growing up? Did you go to church? If so, do you know what denomination it was?
- 4) Why do you think Jesus wanted his followers to be part of **a gathering** of other believers? Why is this so important to him?
- 5) Of the four things that the first church was doing; what part is most important to you? Why?
- 6) In what ways do you think many churches in our culture are failing at being what a church is supposed to be?



GOING DEEPER _____

READ – **Ephesians 2:11-22** together

- 1) What is something that jumps out at you from this passage that is unique, interesting or challenging?
- 2) According to vs 12, what were the four unfortunate marks of a Gentile?
- 3) In what ways does Jesus provide a solution to these four problems for those “outside” of the promise? How are these solutions possible?
- 4) What is the relationship between unity and peace? Why is it important to have both in the body of Christ?
- 5) According to verses 19-22, what is the Church to be built on? What should the church be doing to continue building?
- 6) Why is knowing and understanding the truth of God’s word (i.e. discipleship) so important in the Church’s offensive strategy against the Enemy?

READ – **Hebrews 10:19-25** together

- 7) What are the three practices the Hebrew author encourages in the Church because of who Jesus is and what He’s done? (Hint: “Let us...”)
- 8) Name a way that the Church fulfills each of these three exhortations.



LIVING IT OUT _____

Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man. – **Dwight L. Moody**

- 1) What is one area - *loving others, being mission-focused, growing in discipleship, serving in humility, worship* – that you need God to cultivate in you so that you can take a more active role in the church?
- 2) Pray and ask God to help show you practical ways that you can grow in that specific area.

FRACTURED COMMUNITY

THE CHURCH RESTORED | Week 2 - Sept. 19



HOMEWORK (DONE BEFORE GROUP) _____

Read **2 Timothy 2**



GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER _____

- 1) What are your one or two biggest pet peeves?
- 2) Do you have siblings? Did you fight with your siblings a lot as you were growing up?



MESSAGE REFLECTION _____

- 1) What was something in this Sunday's message that stood out to you, inspired you, or challenged you?
- 2) Why do you think it's important to remember that there is a spiritual enemy that wants to destroy the church?
- 3) Which of the enemy's attacks do you think is being the most effective at devastating the unity, the focus, the love, and the effectiveness of the church in America today?
- 4) Who is one of your favorite Christian leaders or celebrities?
- 5) Why is it important to *not* build your faith on that person?
- 6) If you are willing; share about a time when you personally saw how division and conflict can fracture a church's unity or distract from its Christ-given mission?



GOING DEEPER

READ – **John 17:20-26** together

- 1) What is something that jumps out at you from this passage that is unique, interesting or challenging?
- 2) What was and is Jesus' hope for the Church (vs 21)? Why do you think Jesus prayed for this?
- 3) What do you think is the uniting glory that Jesus is talking about for believers in verses 22 & 23?
- 4) Why do you think that abiding in Christ helps promote acts of love and unity among believers?

READ – **2 Timothy 2:22-26** together

- 5) Why is it important to not only flee sinful things, but to *pursue* good things?
- 6) What four things did Paul encourage believers to *pursue* instead of quarreling? Why are each of these practices vital for relationships with people in the world and in the Church?
- 7) What should be our goal when we, as the Church, choose to *pursue* good rather than evil, according to verses 25 & 26?



LIVING IT OUT

- 1) What is one area – division, distraction, heresy (false beliefs), pride, or fear – that you need to confess to God and/or others as having a foothold in your life?
- 2) What do you need to *pursue* instead of what you had been allowing to creep into your life?
- 3) Read and meditate on **Psalm 139:23-24** this week. Ask God to help you to be aware of your sinful tendencies and that you would *pursue* God's will instead of yours.

BLUEPRINT OF CHURCH

THE CHURCH RESTORED | Week 3 - Sept. 26



HOMework (DONE BEFORE GROUP) _____

Read **Ephesians 4** | Reflect on **Psalm 139:23-24**



GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER _____

- 1) In school, did you prefer group projects or working on your own? Why do you think that is??
- 2) Have you ever played on a team? If so, what was your role? Have you ever been in a band or choir? If so, what was your role?



MESSAGE REFLECTION _____

- 1) What was something in this Sunday's message that stood out to you, inspired you, or challenged you?
- 2) Have you ever found yourself frustrated or suspicious about "organized religion"?
- 3) Why is it important for the church to have structure?
- 4) Do you sometimes fall into the trap of wanting a "super-pastor"? How does the model in Ephesians 4 of multiple gifts within multiple leaders change how you view pastors and church leaders?
- 5) Thinking of the *brick illustration* Pastor William used; are you currently carrying any bricks? Would you consider yourself an active part of the team, investing in the kingdom?
- 6) What are some ways you've been involved in church ministry that are the most fun and/or fulfilling?



GOING DEEPER _____

READ – **Ephesians 4:1-8, 11-13** together

- 1) What is something that jumps out at you from this passage that is unique, interesting or challenging?
- 2) Why do you think Paul singled out the four gifts of grace mentioned in verse 4 when encouraging the early church toward unity and maturity in Christ?
- 3) What is the significance of Paul’s use of the word “one” in verses 4-6?
- 4) Where do gifts come from? How are they distributed to his people and for what purpose (vs 12 & 13)?

READ – **Ephesians 4:14-16** together

- 5) What are three marks of a mature Christian (vs 14-16)?
- 6) In what specific ways is the church like a physical body, according to verse 16?
- 7) Share an example of someone you’ve noticed using their spiritual gifts in church? How did their gift encourage your faith?



LIVING IT OUT _____

- 1) What is one way that you can use your unique gift(s) to help the body of Christ?
- 2) Who is one person in your life who doesn’t know Jesus that you can pray for?
- 3) Identify one person in your life who you could disciple or help take the next step in their faith journey.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE CHURCH RESTORED | Week 4 - Oct. 03



HOMEWORK (DONE BEFORE GROUP) _____

Read **Philippians 1**

Make a list of some of your strongest talents and skills:

What are some experiences (good or bad) that may have prepared you to minister to others?



GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER _____

- 1) Share about a time your body was injured or not functioning properly? What did you do to restore it?
- 2) What is a funny or surprising thing about you that makes you unique? *(for instance being double-jointed, speaking French, juggling, etc.)*



MESSAGE REFLECTION _____

- 1) What was something in this Sunday's message that stood out to you, inspired you, or challenged you?
- 2) How does thinking of the church as ***the body of Christ*** change how you view what a church is and what a church should be doing?
- 3) Share about your talents, skills, and experiences listed above.



GOING DEEPER

READ – Romans 12:3-8 together

- 1) What is something that jumps out at you from this passage that is unique, interesting or challenging?
- 2) Why is humility so vital in the body of Christ?
- 3) Share one specific thing that you're grateful for about your physical body.
- 4) Look around at the body of Christ in your group. Share one specific thing that you're grateful for about the body of Christ. Try to be specific!
- 5) How are spiritual gifts different from talents (vs 6)? How can our talents be used as a springboard for our gift(s)? If you have one, share an example of a time where your talent did or didn't match up with your spiritual gift(s).

READ – Philippians 1:27-30 together

- 6) Paul, in writing to the Philippian body of Christ, affirmed 4 elements that should be vital characteristics of the Church. What are they?
- 7) Why is it important that the body of Christ have unity under one (Holy) Spirit to accomplish the task of being Christ to the world?



LIVING IT OUT

- 1) Find out what gift(s) God has given you:
 - Look at pgs 14-15 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your gifts.
 - Ask other trusted, mature Christians what they think your spiritual gift(s) might be.
 - Take a spiritual gifts analysis – denisonforum.org/spiritual-gifts-assessment/
 - Pay attention to how God has been specifically working through you to accomplish His will and expand His Kingdom.





ADMINISTRATION: organizing people and ministries to increase effectiveness (*1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:8*)

APOSTLESHIP: adapting to a different culture to share the gospel and launching new ministries (*Ephesians 4:11*)

DISCERNMENT: distinguishing spiritual truth from error, deception, or unbiblical heresy (*1 Corinthians 12:10*)

EVANGELISM: sharing the Gospel with the lost with passion and unusual effectiveness (*Ephesians 4:11-12*)

EXHORTATION: encouraging others, building up their confidence in God as they follow Jesus (*Romans 12:8*)

FAITH: seeing God's plan and following it with passion; greatly trusting in God's provision and power (*1 Corinthians 12:9*)

GIVING: investing resources with unusual sacrifice and joy to equip ministries and grow God's Kingdom (*Romans 12:8*)

HOSPITALITY: using your home and/or resources to help others feel loved, welcome, and follow Jesus (*1 Peter 4:9-10*)

INTERCESSION: praying with unusual passion and effectiveness on behalf of others (*Ephesians 6:18*)

KNOWLEDGE: discerning and sharing the deep truths of God's Word and will (*1 Corinthians 12:8*)

LEADERSHIP: motivating and inspiring others to serve Jesus fully and use their gifts (*Romans 12:8; 1 Cor. 12:28*)

MERCY: showing God's grace to hurting people with unusual passion and compassion (*Romans 12:8*)

MUSIC: sharing God's truth and love through music with unusual effectiveness (*John 4:23-24, Colossians 3:16*)

PROPHECY: preaching; proclaiming God's Word for His people with passion and effectiveness (*1 Corinthians 12:10; Romans 12:6*)

SERVING: helping others with humility; meeting practical needs with sacrifice and joy (*1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7*)

SHEPHERDING: gently caring for the hearts and souls of believers, comforting, and helping them grow (*Ephesians 4:11*)

TEACHING: educating disciples; explaining God's Word and truth with unusual effectiveness (*Ephesians 4:11-12*)

WISDOM: relating biblical truth to practical everyday life with great effectiveness (*1 Corinthians 12:8*)

MIRACULOUS HEALING: experiencing effectiveness in praying for Christ to heal others (*1 Corinthians 12:9*) **

LANGUAGES/TONGUES: the ability to communicate in a language you have not learned (*1 Cor. 12:10, Acts 2:4-8*) **

INTERPRETATION: the ability to understand a language you have not learned (*1 Corinthians 12:10*) **

** The last three gifts are not in the online inventory for two reasons:

- 1) Many denominations interpret their role and function differently.
- 2) You don't need to take an online test to know you have this gift.

ART OF ONE-ANOTHERING

THE CHURCH RESTORED | Week 5 - Oct. 10



HOMework (DONE BEFORE GROUP) _____

Read **Matthew 5** | Take the online **Spiritual Gifts** assessment



GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER _____

- 1) Share a story of a time you were in a lot of trouble as a small child? Or share a story of a time your child did something that made a big mess, broke something valuable, or needed forgiveness?
- 2) Have you ever disliked something and then changed your mind?

* SPECIAL WEEK 4 FOLLOW UP _____

After prayerfully reflecting on the list and taking the online inventory, what do you think your **spiritual gift(s)** might be?



MESSAGE REFLECTION _____

- 1) What was something in this Sunday's message that stood out to you, inspired you, or challenged you?
- 2) Do you feel like you are good at handling conflict? Why is that?
- 3) Do you find forgiving others comes easily for you? Why do you think that is?
- 4) How might unforgiveness be preventing us from becoming the person God wants us to be?



GOING DEEPER _____

READ – **Matthew 5:21-24** together

1) *In these verses, Jesus teaches that brothers and sisters (i.e. the body of Christ) must not merely focus on outward sins against each other, but on the more insidious inward sins that can give birth to outward sins.* What are some of the consequences of harboring unforgiveness or unrighteous anger toward others in the body of Christ?

2) Why do you think it's significant that Jesus highlights the importance of seeking forgiveness prior to worshipping?

READ – **Ephesians 4:17-32** together

3) What is something that jumps out at you from this passage that is unique, interesting or challenging?

4) Based on these verses, how should the body of Christ be different from any other organization or group?

5) What does Paul teach us, according to verse 28, about carrying unrighteous anger or bitterness for longer than a day? What do you think Paul meant here when he said that the devil could gain an opportunity?

6) What should be our motivation for forgiveness and reconciliation everywhere, but particularly in the body of Christ?



LIVING IT OUT _____

1) Do you have any offense toward someone? If so, ask God to help you forgive them. Or, if you are the offender ask God for the courage to ask them to forgive you.

2) What are some ways that you are cultivating a life that embraces God's design for living in relationship with others?

3) Name some specific relational areas that you need God's help with.

PASSING THE BATON

THE CHURCH RESTORED | Week 6 - Oct. 17



HOMework (DONE BEFORE GROUP) _____

Read **Romans 10**



GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER _____

- 1) What is one thing you are very passionate about?
- 2) What is something your dad or mom did or said when you were growing up that you find yourself doing or saying now?



MESSAGE REFLECTION _____

- 1) What was something in this Sunday's message that stood out to you, inspired you, or challenged you?
- 2) What are some specific ways that churches can become inward focused?
- 3) Why do you think it is so easy for us to drift back into being inward focused?
- 4) In what ways *has* the church made an impact in changing the world and in what ways *can* it make an impact in our world and culture today?
- 5) What would happen if Millennials and Gen Z (those aged 12-35) do not embrace Jesus?
- 6) Name one to three people in your sphere of influence (children, family, friends, coworkers) who are not yet followers of Christ?



GOING DEEPER _____

READ – together **Romans 10:9-15**

- 1) What is something that jumps out at you from this passage that is unique, interesting or challenging?
- 2) According to verses 9 & 10, how is a person saved?
- 3) How can and does the gospel unite the body of Christ?
- 4) What four things must occur in order for the good news of Jesus to spread in the Buffalo area and beyond, according to vs 14-15?
- 5) What are some obstacles people face sometimes when trying to participate in the mission of spreading the gospel?

READ – **Matthew 28:18-20** together

- 7) Why do you think that Jesus had to remind his followers of his authority before telling them their mission?
- 8) What is our mandate as the Church when it comes to the mission Jesus gave his followers?
- 9) As a group, brainstorm some specific ways that we can “go and make disciples”.



LIVING IT OUT _____

- 1) What is one practical way that you personally can begin “reaching one more for Jesus”?
- 2) Pray and ask God to help you commit to being “all in” as part of Christ’s vision to reach the lost – in your life, in your home, neighborhood, community, and beyond.



SUMMIT CHURCH SMALL GROUP RESOURCES