



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 1: Why Gather

Questions:

1. What are you learning so far about the reasons for us to gather together?
2. How have you seen God's priority of "community" (i.e. in Himself, in creation, in history, in the Bible, in your life)?
3. How can independent thinking feed into self-centeredness in people? How has this affected the church? What does interdependence feed into?
4. Why do you think we have ended up calling it a church "service"? What do you think that term can communicate to guests (compared this with the idea of the word "service" being used in other contexts of our culture - a service station, guest services, or customer service)?
5. In what ways do you need to change your personal thinking about the church and our gathering together?

Week 2: Why Gather to Hear The Word?

Questions:

1. What are you learning so far about the reasons for us to gather together?
2. What is your answer to someone's argument that they can get what they need from a podcast or a sermon online, so they don't need to come to a gathering as often? Is that person still missing something when it comes to hearing the Word? If so, what?
3. Read Nehemiah 8:1-12. What affects did this group of people experience as they heard the Word together that would not have had the same affect if each person read or heard the Word alone?
4. In what ways do you need to change your personal thinking about the importance of gathering to hear the Word together?

Week 3: Why Gather to Sing The Word?

Ephesians 5:18-19, Colossians 3:15-16 (also, Job 38:4-7, Ex. 14-15, book of Psalms, Song of Solomon, 1 Chron. 25:1-7, Luke 1-2, Rev. 14:1-5, Rev. 19)

Questions:

1. What are you learning so far about the reasons for us to gather together?
2. It's obvious that music and singing is important to not only our culture, but in every culture of the world. Why is that? What is so special about singing and music?
3. Do you think that music and singing is a big deal to God in worshipping Him? Why or why not?
4. As you read Ephesians 5:18-19 and Colossians 3:15-16, what is the value of singing, not only to God alone, but with each other?
5. In what ways do you need to change your personal thinking about the importance of gathering to sing together?

Week 4: Why Gather to Pray The Word?

1. What are you learning so far about the reasons for us to gather together?
2. Look at Luke 11:1-4. List all the things we learn about prayer from these few verses. Look at Matthew 6:9-13 as well. How many times do you see the words "I, me, or my" in this example Jesus gave of praying? What do you think Jesus was also trying to teach his disciples by using words like "our and us"?
3. Why is it hard for some people to pray? Why is it hard for some people to pray together with others?
4. What would you say to someone who says they don't need to pray with others, but only alone, between them and God? What could they be missing?
5. In what ways do you need to change your personal thinking about the importance of gathering to pray together?

Week 5: Why Gather in Smaller Gatherings?

Questions:

1. What are you learning so far about the reasons for us to gather together?
2. Look at Hebrews 10:19-23. What did Jesus do to allow us to have access to God? Since we now have access, what should we do?
3. Look at Hebrews 10:24. As we enjoy our renewed access and relationship with God, what else should we be all about? According to verse 25, what do we need to have as a priority to make sure verse 24 can happen?
4. How would getting together in smaller groups with people you see every week be more helpful in accomplishing verse 24?
5. What would you say to someone who says that just going to church on a Sunday is enough, and that they don't need to get to know others and let others get to know them?