



September 10 – 16

I Love My Church

Icebreaker: How do people view the church in our culture? What things form people's opinions about the church?

Read Matthew 16:18

- Who builds the church? Whose church is it?
- What is the promise? Why is this promise so crucial in a world where evil is rampant?

Read Ephesians 3:7–10

- What was Paul's role in the establishment of the church? What was the key to his success?
- What was God's plan accomplished through the church?
- How does it make you feel to know you are a part of a centuries-long plan to make God known to the world?

Read Ephesians 5:22-32

- Marriage is a symbolic representation of Christ and the bride, His Church. What does this teach us about the relationship between Christ and his church?
- How does Christ love the church? What is the end goal of the church?
- How does the state of marriages in our country reflect how people think about church? What are the similarities between healthy marriages and healthy churches?

Read 1 Peter 2:4-5

- As believers, we are called to be a holy priesthood. What does that mean? How does this relate to the New Covenant?
- How do we, as believers (the Church), fulfill God's plan for the world?
- What does it mean to be "called out?"

Ultimately, the church is you; it's us. We all make up the church. Some critical truths about the church: (1) You cannot say you love Christ but not his bride. (2) We must treat this church like your home, not a hotel. (3) We must move from the outside in (*Crowd – Community – Core*). (4) We are not a place of information but rather a place of transformation.

- Which of these stand out to you?
- Which of these have you struggled with?
- How have you seen God help you engage with the church?
- What would you like to see change in your life that would allow you to say consistently, "I love my church."?