
A Year in the Word

A Year in the Word: Part 8

Small Group Questions: Why Church Matters

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Read

Hebrews 10:23–25; Isaiah 49:23; and 1 Corinthians 12:27

Reflect

Hebrews 10 tells us that God is forever faithful in keeping his promises and that we need to place great value on the Church. Jesus is at the center of everything, but sometimes we get distracted by rules and so caught up in our culture that we need the warnings and reminders that Hebrews provides. Sometimes we're casual about our love and commitment to the Church. But the local church has incredible potential and means of influence. Who or what has been the single biggest influence in your life journey to date...both bad and good?

Pastor Greg highlights three reasons why the church matters:

1. Our hope in Christ is what makes us the Church.
 - a. What is the "Church?" How would you define it? How do you picture it?
 - i. What is at the core? What are some differences between the core and "good" things the church does? Why do we sometimes need to differentiate between them?
 - b. Review some of your thoughts and actions this past week. What does it reveal about where you're putting your hope?
 - i. Where (or in what) do you need to be most careful NOT to put your hope?
2. Our love for each other is what we do in the Church.
 - a. Before arriving at small group, what was on your mind? What would it look like if we came to small group thinking how to encourage others?
 - b. What do you think of the statement: "If you are a Christ-follower, you're in full-time ministry"?
 - c. Who can you encourage today? How are you representing Jesus and the church?
 - d. We're like a body working together, each part separate but necessary. What part do you think you play? Ask someone close to you, what part they see you playing.
3. Our meeting together is what keeps us connected to the Church.
 - a. Why do you think people go to church less and less, as shown in statistics?
 - i. How connected do you feel to the Church? How could that improve?
 - b. What are your habits for meeting together with believers? Attendance at church, groups, serving?
 - c. What impact has it had on your life when you've spent time with other believers, versus when you didn't?
 - d. How have you seen the power of believers come together?
 - e. Do you have a testimony that in some way your life was changed in the church?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?