

The Gospel Changes Everything *Small Group Discussion*

SEVEN

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

This discussion will focus considering how our calling as Christ's ambassadors impacts the way we lead our day to day lives.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Why have so many efforts to change our world proven ineffective, or even destructive? What does it mean to be a faithful presence of Christ in this world? This series will explore how the church can play a role in affecting positive change. The gospel, rather than politics or worldly power or wealth or social media or reclusiveness, changes everything.

POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does scripture say?
- What does culture say?
- Which voices are speaking to you too quietly or too loudly?
- Where does Christ come into play / redeem this?
- How is this issue helping or hindering human flourishing?
- Where is the hope misplaced here?
- How can you lean into gospel power vs. weight of this issue?
- How does this affect our small group?
- How can you be a faithful presence in your life?

LOOK *What do we see around us and in our lives?*

What first led you to visit Hope? What do you recall about your early days at church?

BOOK *What does Scripture say about this?*

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

How do you see the church being Biblically Faithful?

Potential answers: Word of God is our source of truth, prioritizing Jesus and the Gospel, promoting love, joy, peace, etc.

How do you see the church being Culturally Relevant?

Potential answers: having a presence on social media presence, eliminating barriers to welcome others in, coming alongside marginalized, widows and orphans, etc.

How do you see the church being a Counter-Cultural Community?

Potential answers: fostering intentional relationships, being salt & light amid our dark, complaining world, seeking peace vs chaos, etc.

Do you believe we, as the church, need to be all three of these? Where do you see room for growth within your own life? Our small group?

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Story of the Good News of Jesus.

Creation

God makes all things and they are good

Fall

God's people turn away from God, things are broken. Death and sin rule over all things.

Redemption

God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, rescues his people and defeats death and sin.

Restoration

Jesus returns to be with his people, end all brokenness, and make all things right.

THE GOSPEL *The Good News of Jesus*

How have you seen Jesus be biblically faithful, culturally relevant and embody counter-cultural community?

As ambassadors of Christ, how do we see each other reflect him well?

Which aspect of these three do you personally need to rely more on Jesus's power?

Accountability/Reflection

Share together and pray for each other

TOOK *What will you take away from today's discussion?*

Possible questions to consider:

Consider what God is telling you *stop, start, change, or continue.*

What part of the gospel do you forget and need to remember this week?

Who do you know who needs to know the truth you discussed today?