

# 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.

**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

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> 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?**

**How do you see the church being Culturally Relevant?**

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

**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?**