





# COMMUNITY GUIDE

September 3, 2023

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## WEEKLY APPLICATION

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**TAKEAWAY:** What we believe is not our witness to the world, it's how we live among one another that is our witness to the world.

**HEAD CHANGE:** How we think about 'church' shapes the type of church we become.

**HEART CHANGE:** Faiths journey is meant to be done together.

**LIFE CHANGE:** What does it mean for you to live with Jesus' body in mind?

## OVERVIEW

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### Not As Easy As We Hope. More Important Than We Thought

We desperately need to recapture the communal aspect of historic Christianity. There is an entire generation deconstructing their beliefs not because those beliefs are wrong but because they never saw those beliefs actually done in a loving community of commitment and sacrifice. What we believe is not our witness to the world, it's how we live among one another that is our witness to the world. The church was not founded to critique the surrounding culture but to form a distinct counterculture where "life to the full" is on display as an invitation to all. However, in many ways the church has mirrored the culture more than forming a counterculture.

**Matthew 16:15-18** (NLT) - Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What stood out to you in this teaching? Why do you think that resonated?
2. What comes to mind when you think about the church? After hearing this message and listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying through the scriptures about the church, how does that differ from what often comes to mind?
3. Do you find yourself thinking more like a consumer or a disciple of Jesus when it comes to your involvement in the family of God, aka the Church?
4. What does it mean for you to live with Jesus' body in mind?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

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Father, we can't do any of this without You. Thank You for revealing the finished work of Jesus to us. May we live with a greater understanding of your grace and approval on our lives because of what Jesus has done. If there are any areas of our lives that are captured by pride, reveal that to me now, I repent and ask for your humility to walk with you and obey you in response to your love and grace toward me. Help me to see your church like you see your church. In Jesus' name, amen.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**