This week's sermon
Who We Are –What We Do
Matthew 16:18

What are <u>churches</u> supposed to do, and why are they here? What they are supposed to do is <u>grow</u> themselves in <u>health</u> and <u>size</u>.

Why they are here? To be the <u>object</u> of God's unmeasurable <u>love</u>.

Our Vision: To Increase the <u>Health</u> and <u>Size</u> of God's <u>Church</u> Everywhere.

Our Values:
<u>Love</u> One Another
<u>Walk</u> with God
<u>Seek</u> the Lost

Our Mission:
We will expand, plant, and grow elder-led campuses in Pennsylvania while <u>investing</u> in world missions, in order to increase the number of <u>believers</u> that have access to a <u>healthy</u> church.

Digging Deeper into the Message

"Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, 'These are the true words of God.'" -Revelation 19:6-9

1. Who is the Bride of Christ in this passage?

2. According to this passage, what is the fine linen that the bride wears?

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." -John 15:12–14

3. How are we supposed to love each other?

4. Besides physically dying for someone, what does it mean to lay down your life for others?

"And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd." –John 10:16
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

5. Who are the other sheep that are not of this fold?

6. Who is supposed to go get the other sheep and tell them the good news?

Community Group

ICEBREAKER: Which truth about God is naturally easier for you to *feel* is true? That God is a loving father who is always pleased with you or that God is a powerful father who always does what's best for you.

QUESTIONS:

❖ Read the first point on the MAP. Discuss the idea that the church is here to be the object of God's immeasurable love. Have you ever thought about it that way before? What is your emotional reaction?

❖ Read Our Vision on the MAP. In the Notes section, list some practical ways we can grow the size of Harvest. Now list practical ways to make Harvest healthier.

❖ How do Harvest's 3 values (front of the MAP) line up with Our Vision?

❖ Value 1: Love One Another. Read John 13:33-35. According to this passage, how will the world be able to tell you're a Christian? Think about your own life this week. Can people tell you love Jesus by the way you treat other human beings? How do you treat other Christians? Where do you excel in this area, and how can you improve?

❖ Are there any Christians that you don't like? Do you see now that you need to repent of this?

❖ Value 2: Walk With God. Read John 15:5-10. According to this passage, how do we abide in Jesus? (hint: see verse 10)

❖ Make a list of God's commandments; in other words - how do Christians behave? What does walking with God look like?

❖ Value 3: Seek the Lost. Who are the lost? Why should you care about them?

❖ How does Harvest's Mission (last MAP point) fulfill the Vision? What are some practical ways you can get behind this Mission?

❖ If time, review the Digging Deeper portion of the MAP.

APPLICATION: Who can you invite to church this week? Who can you invite to community group?