



Discussion Questions from Weekly Message

Feel free to customize this to use in your small group, family or for you personally.

From Message on: 04-18-21

Optional Opener Question

Have you ever regularly practiced a game or a skill that required a target? What was it? Were you good at it? Were you on a team for this sport?

Introductory Thought

This Sunday we looked at the future directions for our church, for both laying a good foundation and for defining the target of our focus for the future.

Discussion Questions

- If you haven't already done this, share why you came to North Ridge in the first place and 5 reasons why you stayed: giving more than one reason will push you to move beyond the surface answers. Was there a time when the preaching got "a little too uncomfortable" and you wanted to bail out? Why did you stay? In what ways might You be a better You because of what North Ridge has been in your life?
- **Question: Where are we going to be?** How do you feel about the idea of a future permanent home for NR? Brent asked us to pray daily for the next 30 days about the next steps for NR, including the possibility of a physical location. Does prayer change God or does it change us? How important are my prayers?
- **Question: What are we going to do?** What do you think Brent meant when he said: "Some of the things we have done this past year have demonstrated to God that we can be trusted as a church."? Recall some of those things if you need to. How might those things be a demonstration? Trusted as a church to do what?
- Review Acts 1:8. What does it mean to be a witness and how does that differ from a teacher or a preacher? What does it mean to be witnesses everywhere from our own neighborhoods to the world? How much do I need to know about the Bible to be a witness? What if I get a question I can't answer? Add these verses to the discussion: Ps 66:16 and Acts 4:20.
- Did you know that your life spreads the fragrance of God everywhere you go? Read 2 Cor 2:14-15. Is that a new concept for you? Does fragrance have to work hard to spread itself? Is fragrance a goal or a by-product? How are you the fragrance of God at work, at home, at the grocery store, at a club meeting, etc? In what ways might this discussion be applicable to witnessing?
- **Question: Who are we going to be?** Is there a difference in the question if I substitute the word What at the beginning? How might what a church DOES differ from what a church IS? Why is Doing easier than Being? Which should come first? How could a church consider themselves successful when they have a full calendar of events and high attendance but be unsuccessful in the eyes of God? Why did Brent talk about the importance of having a Target in addressing this question? What is our target according to Matthew 22:36-40? How could being a "safe place" be so important in achieving the 2 goals Jesus set forth?
- What do you think Brent meant for us to think about when he said: "Discipleship is the answer to literally every problem on the planet... because Jesus is the answer?"

Practical Application & Next Step

- Life gets busy and urgent. What will you do to remind yourself to pray? Can you picture your voice joining a whole chorus of prayers, all with one aim? For the next seven days (this first week into the 30 days challenge), ask God to direct the future steps of NR, whether large or small steps.
- If you haven't done it recently, write out the story of your own spiritual journey. I Peter 3:15-16. There is nothing more appealing than a story of a life changed from the inside out!! Your story is the most power-filled tool ever!!