

Foundations

Church Revisioned

Connect Guide February 10 and 11

Take this paper and take the sermon home with you. Reflect on the passage and discussion questions. Consider how to apply the message to your life. Study alone or gather a group. This guide will enrich and encourage you on your path to discipleship and deepen your relationship with God

Scripture

Matthew 16:18 ... And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Acts 1:8 ... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



Discuss

1. Foundations: Jesus Refocused, Scripture Reclaimed, Service Retooled, Theology Refined, Discipleship Rekindled and now Church Revisioned. What vision do you have of the church? Is it hard for you to imagine the church another way?
2. Did you know some of the most amazing Promises of God are about His church? What are some phrases that describe it?
3. Look up the following passages: Acts 1:14; Acts 4:29-31. How do these verses connect us to Jesus and our purpose as the church? Do you believe prayer is the backbone of the church? How is prayer important in your own life? Do you have prayer habits or methods you can share with this group?
4. Read Matthew 16:18. Pastor Rich said, “The word Jesus used (for church) was *ekklesia*. This wasn’t a religious term. It meant “a gathering of people with a purpose.” What purpose are you on? What purpose is your gathering on? What purpose is our church on? How are you getting there?
5. Read Acts 1:8. What is the tone you read as Jesus is speaking? Is this a command or a prophecy? A suggestion or a hope?

Apply

Our future is one of power and victory. God initiated the church and in the end, He will initial the church. He will sign His name to who the church has become for His glory. The only question is, “Will you be part of it?” The population of Westmoreland County is 358,000. That’s a lot of people. If statistics hold true, that means that 250,600 people in Westmoreland County still need Jesus! What are your “ends of the earth”? What is your new vision of the church? Where and when and who will you gather for Jesus? What is next and how?

Prayer

God, we confess following Jesus isn’t easy. We want to trust in you and build our foundation on the Truth that never fails. Help us to stay true to you God and read and know the Bible. Show us how and empower us now to serve you more effectively and efficiently. Help us to love those who don’t know you and lead them to you. Amen.