

DISCUSSION NOTES

APRIL 14, 2019

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

GETTING STARTED

1. What initially brought you to Redemption Church? What made you decide to stay?

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

2. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. Make 5-7 quick observations. What images are used to describe the church? What assignment is given to the church? What truths are taught? What motivation is given?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. List all the things that God does in this passage. Then list the thing(s) we are supposed to do. How would you describe the difference between the two lists?

In a single, simple sentence using plain language, write out what it means for you to be an ambassador for Christ.

4. Read Romans 12:4-8 and Ephesians 4:11-16. What do these passages teach about the importance of (1) our working together as a unified team and (2) each individual making his or her unique contribution to the team?

LIVING IT OUT

5. In talking to a friend who says, "I don't need the church," what response would you give? Can you use the Bible to explain why church community is essential to deep and meaningful life in Christ?
6. Read and respond to the following quote from A. W. Tozer:
"May not the inadequacy of much of our spiritual experience be traced back to our habit of skipping through the corridors of the Kingdom like children skipping through the marketplace, chattering about everything, but pausing to learn the true value of nothing?"

Why is real reflection and thinking essential to our understanding of God's purposes for "the church"?

7. Do you know your spiritual gifts and wiring for ministry? Have you ever considered your personal S.H.A.P.E. (**s**piritual gifts, **h**eart's passion, **a**bilities, **p**ersonality, **e**xperiences) and how it relates to your service of Jesus' mission? How might this help you in serving the church?
8. What is one way you would like to see Redemption Church grow in our hospitality to new people who visit our church? How can you help us grow in this area? [Group leader: please forward these ideas to our pastors.]
9. As we head into Easter week, do you have anyone that you are inviting to church with you? Can we pray together as a group for those conversations and invitations?
10. What is one thing from this lesson that you want to apply to your life and live out this week?