

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of August 20, 2017

This Week's Focus: Belonging to the Church means to be a part of God's family that regularly gathers together on Sunday mornings under the preaching and teaching of scripture for the purpose of worshipping Jesus Christ.

This Week's Text: 2 Timothy 4:1-4; Ephesians 2:13-21

"If worship is meant to be a spiritual communion with God and a reverent, loving response to God, then at the heart of worship must be the revelation of God himself, and he has ordained to be known mainly by his Word." **John Piper**

"The local church is a community of regenerated believers under the headship of Christ and the authority of Scripture who believe and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They organize under qualified biblical leadership, gather regularly for preaching, teaching, and worship; observe the biblical ordinances of baptism and communion; and give of their finances, times, and abilities; are unified by the Spirit; disciplined for holiness; and scatter to fulfill the Great Commission as missionaries to the world for God's glory and their joy." **Adapted from *Vintage Church* by Mark Driscoll and Gerry Breshears**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Why do we gather on Sunday mornings under the preaching of the Word of God? Why do we refer to the Bible as the Word of God? Reference 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21. What does God's Word reveal to us about God and about ourselves?
- What is worship, and why should the Word of God drive our worship gatherings? Who is the ultimate Word of God that the scriptures direct us to? Reference John 1:1.
- How does the Word of God play a part in God's work of salvation (spiritual rebirth) and sanctification (spiritual renewal)? Reference Romans 10:17, John 17:17, and 1 Thessalonians 2:13. Discuss how teaching and preaching the Word of God is vitally important in shaping, upholding, and nourishing believers and all the work of the church.

- What is expository preaching, and what are the benefits of this approach to preaching the Word of God? Discuss why Sunday morning worship gathering in a local church is a key part of our discipleship.
- What is the Church (local and global)? Reference the definition above. Name some metaphors that scripture uses for the Church, and what important feature/function they highlight. Who is the head of the Church to whose Lordship we are all called to submit?
- What does it mean to belong to a local church? Is it merely a voluntary role to belong to and serve in a local church? How have our cultural sensibilities skewed our understanding of the church, God's purpose for the church, and our necessity of being members of a local church?
- Discuss why it is important to formally recognize people as belonging to the body of Christ through church membership. Why is formal church membership especially important in our contemporary culture?