

The Church as Family

START: (10 min)

1. How was your week?
2. Conversation Starter (*optional*): Can you remember your first experience in church? What was it like for you?

GOSPEL:

1. **Part 1:** What are some of the first things that come to your mind when you think of the word “church”?
Part 2: How do your experiences and upbringing influence your view of what the church is or *should* be?
2. **Part 1:** What are the misconceptions that people have of what a church is?
Part 2: According to Sunday’s message, how is the church (ecclesia) described in its purest form?
3. How does viewing the church as a “family” or “body” enhance your understanding of its purpose and function?
4. Reflect on Matthew 16:15-19. What does it mean for the church to be built on the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God?
5. Do you think the Church (in general) sometimes forgets their core purpose as seen in Matthew 16:15-19? If so, what are the consequences of forgetting it?
6. The church is a *living, breathing movement who is to be united in a purpose oriented gathering dedicated to actively moving forward and carrying the truth of Jesus Christ to every corner of the world*. How do you balance the purpose of the truth with the busy activities of the church? Do you think those activities support the core mission or does it distract? In what way/s?
7. What practical steps can we take to ensure our church community reflects love, unity, and fruitfulness?
8. Do you see some challenges in our own church that might hinder its mission? How can these be addressed?

9. How can we as individuals “promote,” “reflect,” and “represent” Jesus in our daily lives and community?
10. What are some ways we can encourage each other to live for Jesus and support one another in our spiritual growth?

PRAYER: Take some time in prayer, asking God to help our church embody the dynamic and powerful movement that He intended.