

# THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Sunday, September 18, 2022**  
**The Word, The Spirit, and The Church**

### **Message Summary:**

This week, as we rolled out the new branding of Abundant Life, Pastor John taught us what we stand for as a church family. This is the DNA of our church that defines who we are and what we believe:

Before we have any other identity, we have to remember that we are a part of the church, a collective community of faith. We believe that a church should encourage the believers to grow the body of Christ in the following five ways:

1. **Image** – creating an icon that people can identify with.
2. **Identification** – building identity around a shared vision.
3. **Involvement** – sharing a vision that invites people to commit themselves and get involved.
4. **Investment** – equipping people for the work of the ministry through the investment of their time, talent, and treasure.
5. **Increase** – empowering people to share this community of faith with others so the kingdom of God increases, even as we increase.

Our church is founded on three key pillars of mission. We are called to (1) make disciples, (2) reach our world, and (3) develop churches and leaders. Morally, this mission is framed by the three standards or virtues: honor, integrity, and excellence. And our image, the image that people can identify with Abundant Life Church is shaped by three things: The Word of God, The Holy Spirit, and the Church. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit govern and guide us, the Church. We are called to grow in the Word of God, experience the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, and build relationships with others in the community of faith, the Church.

### **Other Scriptures:**

- [John 10:10 NKJV] 10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.
- [Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV] 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of **all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "**teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
- [Ephesians 4:11-12 NKJV] 11 And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the **equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. As a church, what role does the Word of God play in our lives?
2. As a church, what role does the Holy Spirit play in our lives?
3. As a church, what role does the community of faith (the church) play in our lives?
4. How do these three things keep each other accountable?

### **Life Application:**

This week, as you meditate on the scriptures and the three parts of our image, ask yourself these three questions: Which are you strongest in? Which are you weakest in? And where do you need to grow?