



“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.” Acts 15:19

THE POINT: When a church is FOR the community, FOR people, and deeply desires to introduce them to the love of Jesus, they become a community partner in a beautiful way.

INTRO

What do we want to be known for? This is a great question for any organization to ask, especially a church. In the FOR series, we are talking about what we want to be known for as a church. This is important because it ties directly into what God is FOR.

In order to answer this, we must also know our WHY. Jesus is our WHY because Jesus has called us to live a life that points to Him. At North Ridge, we say:

North Ridge Church is a movement for all people to discover and deepen a relationship with Jesus.

This statement is more than just a slogan. It's a mission for our church and helps point us as a church toward Jesus rather than ourselves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Answer the questions below in the context to see how knowing your “why” helps to identify what you, or any organization, is for:

1. Discuss a company or organization you respect. What are they known for?
2. Growing up, what was your experience with the church? Was it positive or negative?
3. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: “Many people are more familiar with what the Church is AGAINST rather than what the Church is FOR”? Can you make a list of things that North Ridge Church is known FOR?
4. Read **Acts 15:1**. What Jewish custom was a barrier for unbelievers to know Jesus? If we want to be a church that doesn't “make it difficult” for unbelievers to turn to God, what barriers do we as a church need to remove?
5. Read **Acts 15:19**. The early church made a decision to be FOR unbelievers. What are ways that we can show our neighbors and our community that North Ridge is FOR them?



NEXT STEPS

6. For many people who don't go to church, they've opted out because they feel they have nothing in common with people who do go to church. What are some ways you can create common ground with co-workers, friends, or individuals that may see themselves as excluded?

7. As we create common ground, we want to create conversations. This is why we're launching our FOR Asheboro movement with T-shirts and stickers--we want to create opportunities for people to ask you about this! What are some other ways to spark conversation this week?

8. And then comes the God part--God begins to take the common ground and conversations and uses them to create connections. Spend some time praying for people in the community who need to know Jesus. Pray for opportunities to connect with them, whether that's inviting them to church or to your house for coffee.

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