



BIG IDEA

“The best part of our time together is the reading and hearing of God’s Word. What should make all of our hearts sing with gladness and find encouragement and cause us to repent and be joyful and find comfort is God’s Word.”

THOUGHTS FROM THE SERMON

1. How were you impacted by the message this week?
2. What did we learn about the marks of a church? What makes a church a true church?
3. What are the three historical marks of the church? What is the fourth that people are advocating to be added?

Read: Acts 20:1-16, Ephesians 2:13-14, 4:1-6

4. Why is it essential to understand the difference between a description or a command of the first church when we read these verses?
5. How does Luke describe the first church? What things should have divided those first Christians?
6. Describe the fellowship of the saints from what we see in our verses. What traits must we exhibit and be intentional about living out if we desire true unity individually and as a church?

Read: Acts 20:7-12, Matthew 4:4

7. What were the two meals described in our verses? What did we learn their purpose was?
8. Why is the preaching of God’s Word important? What would you want the focus to be if you were hearing your last sermon?
9. What are the four ways we should respond to God’s preached Word? Which of these could you focus on in your own life?
10. What did we learn the best part of our time spent together? Again how should we respond to reading and hearing the Word of God?

NOTES

PERSONAL REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

1. How were you personally challenged this week?
2. In what ways can you look at the marks of a church differently this week?
3. How can you actively participate in the fellowship of believers this week?
4. How has your view of love changed in light of what you have learned this week?
5. How will you personally apply what you learned from the sermon to your life?
6. How can your group hold you accountable this week? How can they encourage you?

DEEPER

Pray: This week, pray for the preaching of God's Word at Gateway Church and those who are preaching.

Read: Acts 20:1-16, 20:7-12, Ephesians 2:13-14, 4:1-6, Matthew 4:4. Take time to reflect on these passages and write down your thoughts. Visit gatewayepc.org/news to read and review the sermon manuscript.

Write: Take time to write down your thoughts and insights from the sermon this week. Keeping a journal is just one more tool that you can use to track what God is showing you in your walk with him.

Sing: Listen to the worship songs from Sunday throughout the week. Look up the lyrics to each song and spend some time reading them as well.

Memorize: As a Life Group, pick a few verses from the sermon and memorize them this week. (Acts 20:1-16, 20:7-12, Ephesians 2:13-14, 4:1-6, Matthew 4:4)

Love: How can your group show the love of Christ in your group, church, and community this week?