

# Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 2/8/26

## Summary

This sermon explored how the very first Christians worshiped and lived, drawing from their example to challenge modern believers. Pastor Mark examined the practices of early Christians who gathered on Sundays to worship Jesus as Lord, despite inconvenience and persecution. These first followers established patterns of worship that included reading extensive Scripture, hearing sermons about Jesus, taking communion, singing, giving offerings, and praying. The sermon emphasized that these practices weren't merely traditions but were expressions of their allegiance to Christ and evidence of their transformed lives. Pastor Mark connected these early Christian practices to College Church's current ministry, including their generous giving and upcoming endowment campaign. He concluded by calling the church to be a 'house of prayer' during Lent and challenged believers to live exemplary lives that make them 'salt and light' in the world, just as the early Christians were.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together to study Your Word and learn from the example of the early church, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and to see how the faithfulness of the first Christians can inspire and challenge our own walk with You. May we not just hear these truths but be transformed by them. Guide our discussion and help us to encourage one another as we seek to follow Jesus more faithfully. In His name we pray, Amen.

# Ice Breaker

What is one tradition or routine in your family or personal life that you've maintained consistently over the years, and why is it important to you?

## Key Verses

Matthew 5:13-16

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Acts 20:7

Acts 2:42

## Questions

1. What strikes you most about the commitment of early Christians to worship together, especially considering the risks and inconveniences they faced?
2. Pastor Mark mentioned that early Christians had to worship before work or after work because Sunday wasn't a day off. How does this challenge our modern approach to worship and convenience?
3. How do the six elements of early Christian worship (Scripture reading, preaching, communion, singing, giving, and praying) compare to our current worship practices? What might we be missing?

4. The sermon emphasized that early Christians were known for their generosity. How can we become more generous in our own lives and church community?
5. Pastor Mark shared about the church's plan for continuous prayer during Lent. What role does prayer play in your personal spiritual life, and how might corporate prayer strengthen the church?
6. Early Christians lived exemplary lives that were noticed by the world around them. What aspects of Christian living do you think should be most noticeable to non-believers today? How should we be salt and light?

## Life Application

This week, choose one aspect of early Christian practice mentioned in the sermon (worship attendance, Scripture reading, prayer, generosity, or exemplary living) and intentionally focus on strengthening it in your life. Consider how you can make this practice more consistent and meaningful, and be prepared to share your experience with the group next week.

## Key Takeaways

- Early Christians worshiped Jesus as Lord on Sundays despite persecution and inconvenience, showing that convenience should not determine our worship of the Lord.
- The five core elements of early Christian worship were: extensive Scripture reading, preaching about Jesus, communion, singing, and giving offerings.

- Early Christians were known for their generosity, giving not just for the Lord's sake but for others and as protection against the temptation of materialism.
- Prayer was central to early Christian life, and the church should be known as a 'house of prayer' where believers intercede for the world.
- Christians are called to be 'salt and light' through both faithful worship and exemplary living that draws others to glorify God.

## **Ending Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You for the example of the early Christians who faithfully followed You despite great cost. Help us to have that same commitment to worship You worthily and live exemplary lives that point others to You. May we be salt that preserves and seasons this world with Your grace, and light that draws people to Your truth. Give us courage to prioritize our relationship with You over convenience and comfort. Help us to be generous with our resources, faithful in prayer, and consistent in our worship. May our lives be a testimony to Your goodness and grace. Transform us by Your Spirit to be the salt and light You have called us to be. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.