



GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE – No Plan B - Wk 2 **God's Plan is the Church**

ARRIVAL / CONNECTING and SNACK 15 minutes

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. If your group met last week, follow up on one another's action steps.

OPENING PRAYER: 2 minutes

Pray briefly for your time together - for teachable hearts, for ears to hear from God, and for eyes to see one another. Also, thank God that His "Plan A" IS His church!

Have someone read, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, each scripture passage. Then interact around the questions that follow:

SCRIPTURE READING #1: Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1. What was it like to be part of the earliest community of Christians?
2. What were their priorities? Why?
3. How important do you think *belonging* to the larger Christian community was to people who had decided to follow Jesus as Messiah? Why?
4. How important is it for Christ followers today to *belong to* (be actively involved in) a local church community? Why?

SCRIPTURE READING #2: Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

1. This epistle was probably written 25-30 years after Jesus' resurrection. Do you find it surprising that Christians were already placing a lower priority on being actively involved in the Christian community?
2. Why do you think some were giving up meeting together with other Christians?
3. What things cause Christ followers today to give up on being actively involved in a local church community?

SCRIPTURE READING #3: I Corinthians 12:14-20

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

1. What is the primary truth the Apostle Paul wants us to take from this passage?
2. How important is it that all the members of a local church family actively engage in the life and ministries of their church?
3. What happens when some don't engage?
4. Describe what a church with full engagement of all its members would be like.

SURRENDER: 15 minutes

1. What is the "trajectory" (toward greater or less) of your personal engagement in the life and ministries of your local church?
2. What are you willing to ask God to help you change in light of what He is showing you?

CLOSING PRAYER: (10 minutes) Pray for one another in light of what was shared today.