

Apostles' * Creed

JENKS CHURCH

Small Group Guide: "I Believe in the Church"

Discussion Questions

Read 1 Peter 1:16 and 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

1. The sermon states that holiness is "not a mandate but an invitation...not a standard to achieve but a person to become." What's the difference between these two approaches? How does this change your perspective on holiness?
2. Why do you think God is described as "holy, holy, holy" rather than "love, love, love"? How does God's holiness actually enable us to trust His love?
3. In what practical ways should the church look "obviously different from the rest of the world"? What does that look like in your life?
4. The quote states: "The kingdom of God is not going to be advanced by our churches becoming filled with people, but by people in our churches becoming filled with God." What's the difference? How does this challenge our approach to church growth?

Read Acts 2:1-11 and Hebrews 12:1

5. What does it mean that the church includes "every past, present, and future believer"? How should this reality shape our worship and perspective?
6. The sermon says "A local focus of the church = A global impact of the kingdom." How can our small group have both a local focus and global impact?
7. How does remembering the "great cloud of witnesses" encourage you in your faith journey?

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Read John 13:34-35

8. The sermon describes communion as more than just crackers and juice—it's about "intimate relationship" and "uncommon unity." What makes Christian unity "uncommon"?
9. The pastor mentions that we become a "new family" in Christ. How have you experienced this? What are the challenges of treating church members as family?
10. "Relationships are messy." Why is it important to acknowledge this reality when talking about church community? How does this prepare us for authentic communion?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18

11. How does it feel to be called a "saint" (holy one) when you know you're still imperfect and being transformed?
12. The Lego illustration suggests we're all pieces being built together. How does this image help you understand your role in the church?
13. The sermon ends with "BELONG to a church, don't simply ATTEND a church." What's the difference? Which category are you in right now, and what would it take to move toward belonging?

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

- **Holiness:** Identify one area where you've been trying to "achieve a standard" rather than "become like a person." Pray daily for God to transform you in this area.
- **Catholic/Universal:** Research and pray for Christians in another part of the world who are facing persecution or hardship.

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- **Communion:** Reach out to someone in the church you don't know well and invite them for coffee or a meal.
- **Saints:** Write down 2-3 ways you've seen God transform you over the past year. Thank Him for His ongoing work.

Group Challenge

As a group, commit to one tangible way you can move from "attending" to "belonging":

- Serve together in a church ministry
 - Commit to meeting regularly for the next 3 months
 - Organize a service project in your local community
 - Host a meal together and invite someone new to the group
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