



Faith Community Church  
Exploring Christ (Battleship, Part 1)

Faith Group Questions  
& Discussion Guide



**Opening Prayer:** Father, open our eyes to see the reality of the battle we should be fighting - in our own lives and in the lives of those we are helping to know You.

**Icebreaker Question:** What's one goal you have for growing spiritually this year?

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Our spiritual journeys progress through identifiable stages: Exploring, Beginning, Growing, and Faithfully Centered on Christ.
2. Each stage has unique spiritual battles. Satan has specific strategies to keep us from advancing in our faith.
3. Salvation is by grace through faith alone, not by works. This is the foundational truth that moves someone from exploring (Fellowship) to believing (Relationship).
4. Satan works immediately to steal the word sown in hearts. We must be equally intentional about following up to help others understand and to water seeds.
5. Spiritual growth requires intentionality: actively seeking, pursuing, and treasuring the things of God.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one area you chose to change last week so you could better glorify God?
2. The pastor identified four "ships" or stages of spiritual growth. Briefly describe each one in your own words. Which stage do you think best describes where you are now? (Mark 4:14-20)
3. Jesus said in Mark 4:13 that if we don't understand the Parable of the Sower, we won't understand the other parables. Why do you think this particular parable is so foundational to understanding spiritual growth?
4. Satan "immediately" comes to snatch away the word that's been sown (Mark 4:15). What does this tell us about the urgency of spiritual warfare? How have you seen this play out in your own life or in the lives of others? (2 Corinthians 4:1-6)

5. What are practical ways we can "water the seed" and follow-up immediately with people who are exploring Christ? How can we be more intentional about this? (1 Corinthians 15:1-7. For a longer study, read Stephen's testimony in Acts 7)
6. The key truth for moving from "Exploring Christ" to "Beginning in Christ" is understanding grace—that salvation is not based on works. Why do you think this is so hard for people to accept? What barriers prevent people from receiving this truth? (Galatians 5:1-7, Philippians 3:3-9)
7. Think of someone in your life who is currently "exploring Christ." What might be one practical way you could encourage them in their spiritual journey? (2 Peter 1:3-8)
8. Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved." Has there been a time in your life when you made this confession? Would you share briefly about your journey to faith? If you haven't yet, would you like to make that confession right now?

### **Practical Applications (Choose 1):**

Option 1: Follow Up. Identify someone who recently visited church, heard the gospel, or showed interest in spiritual things. Pray for them daily. Reach out to them this week with encouragement, an invitation, or simply to check in.

Option 2: Guard Your Heart. Identify one area where you're vulnerable to the enemy stealing God's word from your heart. Create a practical plan to protect that area (accountability, scripture memorization, changing habits, etc.). Share your plan with one trusted person who can help you stay committed.

Option 3: Invest in Your Growth. Commit to joining a ministry or group that will help you grow (Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, serving team, etc.). Or, if you're already committed, identify one next step in your spiritual maturity and take action this week.

Option 4: Share the Gospel. Write out your explanation that salvation is by grace through faith, not works. Pray for an opportunity to share it with someone this week.

**Closing Prayer:** Ask God to help each one identify where they are in their spiritual journey and to give them the strength and motivation to continue growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.