

Discussion Questions



Overview

This sermon challenges the church to move from passive participation to active, intentional ministry -- particularly toward young people. Pastor Peter examines how the church can better equip the next generation by grounding them in truth, leading in smaller and more relational ways, and empowering families to be the primary spiritual influence in the lives of youth.

Key Takeaways

- The gospel transcends time, culture, and technological change. No cultural shift alters the meaning of the cross or the freedom it provides.
- The church must train young people not just what to think, but how to think -- equipping them with tools to evaluate truth critically and biblically.
- Absolute truth is the foundation of a biblical worldview. Without it, culture becomes the authority, and culture is always shifting.
- Programs alone do not make disciples. Genuine, personal, relational ministry is what sustains faith in young people over time.
- Parents and family members are the single greatest spiritual influence in the lives of youth -- not pastors or programs.
- The word "church" comes from the Greek word ecclesia, meaning "the called out ones." Every believer has been called out of something and called into a purpose.
- Leading small creates space for bigger, more honest conversations and deeper relationships.
- The Holy Spirit is the one who moves through ministry. Our role is to make ourselves available to what God is already doing.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Pastor Peter opened with a story about his dog Murphy coasting in a driverless van and compared it to how some people engage with church. In what ways have you personally experienced or observed "coasting" in your own faith or church involvement? What caused it?
 2. When you first became involved in a church community, what drew you in -- a program, a relationship, a moment of conviction, something else? What has kept you engaged since then?
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Truth and Worldview

3. Pastor Peter described four questions that every human being wrestles with: Where did we come from? What is the purpose of life? What is right and wrong and who decides? Where do we go when we die? How would you answer each of those questions, and how has your faith shaped those answers?
 4. The quote from Stanley Greener described postmodernism as the belief that truth is relative to the community you belong to rather than being absolute. Where do you see this philosophy showing up in everyday life -- in media, education, or even in church culture?
 5. Pastor Peter shared a three-part filtering system for evaluating truth claims: Is there evidence for it? Does it contradict itself? Does it work in real life? Try applying this framework to a belief or idea that has been culturally prominent recently. What do you find?
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Relational Ministry and Leading Small

6. The statistic shared from David Soller's book suggested that approximately 90 percent of highly committed teens leave the church or their faith by age 25. What is your reaction to that number? Does it surprise you, or does it match what you have seen in your own experience?
7. Pastor Peter said, "The bigger you get, the smaller you lead." What does that mean to you practically? Can you think of a time

Derived from Sunday morning sermon via Pulpit AI

when a smaller, more personal setting led to a more meaningful spiritual conversation than a larger one?

8. Life groups were highlighted as a space where conversations can happen that preaching alone cannot facilitate. What has your experience with small group community been like? What has made it meaningful or difficult?

Family and Intergenerational Ministry

9. The sermon emphasized that parents and family members are the primary spiritual influencers of young people -- not youth pastors or church programs. How does that land with you, whether you are a parent or not? What does it practically look like to take that responsibility seriously?
10. The church described its philosophy as combining "the love of the family with the light of the church." What would it look like in your own household or relational sphere to live that out more intentionally this week?
11. Pastor Peter noted that fear often keeps adults from engaging honestly with the questions young people ask. Have you ever experienced or witnessed a moment where a young person's question was shut down rather than explored? What was the effect of that?

Being Called Out for a Purpose

12. Pastor Peter closed by describing the Greek word *ecclesia* -- the called out ones -- and said that every believer has been called out of something and called into a purpose. What do you feel you have been called out of? What do you sense you have been called into?
13. The image of plastic flowers was used to describe ministry or faith that looks fruitful but has no real life in it. Where in your own life might you be producing "plastic fruit" -- going through the motions without genuine rootedness in Christ?
14. What is one specific step of faith that this sermon is prompting you to consider? What is holding you back from taking it?

Practical Applications

Consider choosing one of the following as a personal or group commitment before your next meeting:

- If you are not currently in a life group, reach out to your church this week about joining or forming one.
- If you are a parent or grandparent, set aside intentional time this week to ask a young person in your life one of the four worldview questions and listen without rushing to give answers.
- Identify one ministry area in your church where you could contribute your time or gifts. Make a specific inquiry rather than a general intention.
- Practice the three-part truth-filtering framework on one idea or message you encounter this week through social media, news, or conversation.
- If you have been coasting in your faith, write down honestly what has kept you from full engagement and bring it to God in prayer this week.

Closing Reflection

Pastor Peter reminded the congregation that it is not programs, budgets, media, or buildings that will ultimately change lives. It is the Holy Spirit moving through willing people. The church is not asking you to carry the weight of a generation on your own shoulders. It is asking you to show up, make yourself available, and trust that God will work through you.

As you close your time together, pray specifically for the young people connected to your group -- by name if possible. Ask God to give your group a genuine burden for the next generation and the courage to act on it.

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide." -- John 15:16