

This past week we began a new series, Let's Go!, as we discuss how believers can be the local church and live to bless. Pastor Chris built a theology of the local church from many passages of Scripture.

Discussion Questions:

1. Looking back at your notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most from the sermon?

2. What's the importance of the local church?

The local church is designed to bless, and it is how the world is reached with the gospel. The primary tasks of the local church are to disciple believers and evangelize to unbelievers. The local church composes the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), and we each have a role within it. It is a gathering of God's people to encourage one another, exhort one another, and exalt Christ together. The goal is to be a vibrant, gospel-proclaiming, value-adding, Bible-preaching, glory-focused church.

Have members reflect on how Fellowship Church has been impactful to their lives and to the lives of those they have heard from. As we enter this next stage with the new campaign, it's important to reflect on why we do so. How can we as the local church bless the neighborhood? What do you think about the vision for the future of Fellowship Church?

3. Why is the obsession over the "capital C" Church an issue?

While all believers are a part of the global Church who make up the body of Christ, when we focus too much on just the "capital C" Church, it's often to the neglect of the local body of believers. Each time in Scripture the "church" is mentioned, it is in the context of a local congregation. Note that the Church doesn't necessarily have a mission: the mission is the local church.

4. Since discipleship and evangelism are God's plan for the local church, how can you play a part in this plan?

It is firstly important to note as Pastor Chris did that discipleship and evangelism cannot be divorced from each other. The two ought to occur together. Discipleship is teaching and training, and it is a means of spiritual growth. A natural aspect of discipleship is evangelism. Discuss how each member can participate in these realms. Pursue being disciplined by others and abiding in God's Word as well as pursuing others to disciple and lead. Turn your attention outwards to those around you and share the gospel to them alongside those in discipleship. We can all lean into the local church and seek to personally grow and worship Christ more while facilitating that worship among others.

5. Pastor Chris gave a list of glory-focused church characteristics. Which of these characteristics stands out to you? How can you contribute to this vision?

As a reminder, below is the list of characteristics. Discuss these questions and seek out practical applications from each characteristic people point out. For example, how can we be warm and welcoming? How can we foster a passion for personal holiness?

- Expects to be alive and growing.
- Expects the Holy Spirit will move when we gather.
- Expects the Bible to be our definitive guide.
- Expects the gospel has everyday implications for believers.
- Expects to provide stability in cultural chaos.
- Expects great passion about reaching the next generation.
- Expects great passion about personal holiness.
- Expects a warm and welcoming spirit to all.
- Expects great passion for missions.
- Expects every member to view their vocation as their primary ministry. Living as a missionary.

6. What are some practical and tangible ways that you can live to bless others this upcoming week?

Discuss personal ideas and commit to actually enacting them and holding each other accountable in doing them. Be creative and think of examples of service and ways to have a greater heart for the neighborhood and more focused eyes to see their needs and meet them. Acts 3:1-10 highlights the importance of meeting physical needs of people as well as their spiritual needs even if the same healing miracles are not as common today.

7. The challenge at the end of the sermon was to show up, build up, and show out. What does this mean, and how do you contribute?

Discuss more practical steps to take to stay committed to the local church and to be a part of Fellowship in this new initiative. A huge way to help is to pray, so we ask that classes pray over the future of the church and this campaign and instill the need for prayer into members beyond just the class. Other ways we can step out in faith include financial support, volunteering time, and being a warm and welcoming person to those around you and visitors at the church.

8. What is one key takeaway you have retrieved from the sermon?