

## No Stopping Us

Silver Linings, Matthew 16:18

January 24, 2021

Community Group Discussion Questions

### PLEASE READ BEFORE LEADING DISCUSSION

- Recommended questions are highlighted in bold, but select 5 or 6 questions you think will work best for your group discussion. You likely won't have time to discuss all of the questions so choose which questions you will ask ahead of time and make sure to provide plenty of time to focus on the application questions.
- Feel free to edit or reword questions to best fit your group.
- You may want to print out copies of this document for everyone so they can follow along with the questions as you read them.
- Check out this Facilitation Guide (<http://bit.ly/CGFacilitationGuide>) for tips on leading good discussions.

### ICEBREAKER (5-10 Minutes)

1. Share your name and answer the following question:
  - What is a favorite memory you've had of gathering with others? (a camp, retreat, vacation, road trip, conference, family reunion, etc.)

**OPENING THE DISCUSSION (5-10 Minutes)** – Have someone recap the message in about a minute or two and then ask the following questions:

2. **Drew shared 3 lessons about the church that 2020 helped us learn: 1. The Church isn't a place, it's a people. 2. The Church is resilient. 3. The Church is vital and unstoppable.**
  - Which of those lessons did you find most challenging or clarifying?
  - Which of these lessons does the church in America most need to be reminded of?
3. **Drew shared 3 examples of how the Church is not a place you go, but a thing you are part of: 1. A Body (Ephesians 5:29-30) 2. A Marriage (Ephesians 5:31-32) 3. A Family (2 Thessalonians 1:3)**
  - What are some practical implications of viewing the church this way?
  - When have you experienced the church functioning like a family?

**DIGGING DEEPER (10 Minutes)** – ask everyone to follow along in their Bible or Bible app. You might consider looking up these passages online and sharing your screen to review them together.

4. **Read Matthew 16:18.**
  - In what ways does Jesus' promise about the church help us when we face challenges like we have in 2020 and 2021?
  - Why is it important to be reminded that the word Jesus used for "church" means "assembly" or "gathering"?
5. Read 1 Peter 4:12-13.
  - How has God used sufferings to strengthen your faith?
  - How are you doing at rejoicing in your sufferings?
6. **Matthew 5:14-16.**
  - What are some specific ways our church, or you specifically, can be a light to a watching world?

### APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)

7. Drew ended his message with 2 questions: 1. Are you part of the Church? 2. Are you acting like the Church?
  - How would you answer those questions?

**GROWTH GOALS:** ([Print Growth Goal Forms or share the link online](#))

- What is a next step in your faith you want to take this year?

**If you didn't get a chance last week, take some time to review plans for the Community Group trimester, and review the goals of Community Groups.**

### COMMUNITY GROUP OVERVIEW

1. **Review ABC's: Purpose of Community Groups:** Apply the Bible, Build Relationships, Care for Each Other
2. **Review Group Agreement:** <http://bit.ly/CGAgreement> (See below). Read and ask if anyone has any questions.
3. **Discuss Volunteer Schedule for snacks, childcare, hosting, and facilitation.** Bring a preassigned volunteer schedule if possible: [www.NorthridgeLeaders.com/volunteer-schedule-template](http://www.NorthridgeLeaders.com/volunteer-schedule-template)
  - o Other potential volunteer roles include: Sending weekly emails, organizing socials or serving projects, tracking prayer requests
4. **Discuss starting and ending time and trimester schedule.**
  - o Group trimester goes from January 17th – March 27th (10 Weeks)
  - o Let's honor each other by starting on time and agreeing about how to handle the ending time. Generally it is best to have a hard ending but let people know they can stay to hang out afterwards.
5. **Explain how a normal Community Group night will look for those who are new to groups.**
  - o Social time (10-20 minutes)
  - o Ice Breaker (10 minutes)
  - o Sermon Discussion (30-40 minutes)
  - o Group Prayer Time, Usually in gendered groups (30-45 minutes)
  - o Hangout/Head home
6. **Plan to collect and share contact information for group members**

### GROUP AGREEMENT

1. **I will make this 10-week group trimester a priority by attending weekly and participating openly in group discussion. I will call ahead if I am going to be absent or late.**
2. **I will strive to build authentic relationships with those in this group by showing care, providing encouragement and praying for their needs. I will keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.**
3. **I will regularly attend services at Northridge and contribute to the ministry of the church through my attendance and inviting of others with a desire to see this group multiply down the road.**
4. **I will explore honestly my next steps for spiritual growth.**