

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Key Application: The Church is God's chosen plan to bring healing, restoration, and the presence of His kingdom into the world. It is not a building, but the people of God, called together to be the Body of Christ and the hope of the world.

Opening Reflection:

1. When you hear the word church, what comes to your mind first—building, people, worship, community, or something else? Why do you think that is?

Personal Experience:

- 2. Share about a time when the church (local or global) made a significant impact in your life.
- 3. Have you ever experienced disappointment or hurt from the church? How has that shaped the way you view the church today?

The Church as God's Plan:

- 4. In the sermon, we traced how God has always chosen to work through a group of people (Israel \rightarrow Jesus \rightarrow the Church). Why do you think God chooses to use people instead of just doing everything Himself?
- 5. Read 1 Peter 2:9. What does it mean for us to be a "royal priesthood" and a "holy nation" in our world today?

THE CHURCH, CONT.

The Church as the Body of Christ:

- 6. In what ways do you see the church being the "hands and feet of Jesus" in our community?
- **7.** Which of the specific ways Jesus ministered (preaching good news, forgiving, healing, welcoming the lonely, serving, etc.) do you feel most drawn to? Which ones challenge you the most?

The Church's Calling Today:

- 8. Imagine if the church fully lived out its calling as the Body of Christ. What would change in our city? In our neighborhoods? In our families?
- 9. On the flip side, what do you think happens when the church neglects its calling? (Think both practically and spiritually.)

Personal Challenge:

- 10. What unique gift, passion, or resource has God given you that could build up the church?
- 11. Where is Jesus (the Head of the Church) calling you to step more fully into your role as part of His body?

Looking Ahead:

12. As we prepare to go into the 7 letters to the churches in Revelation, what area of your spiritual life are you most open to Jesus correcting, strengthening, or igniting?