

CrossPoint Community Facilitator Guide

September 7—Why Church?

DINNER & DELIGHT (» 45 MIN)

- How are you feeling spiritually (dry, excited, ambivalent) coming out of summer?

LEARN AND STUDY (» 15 MIN)

Study/Observation Questions: Read Matthew 16v13-20

- What question does Jesus ask his disciples in verse 13, and how do they respond? Why do you think Jesus starts the conversation this way?
- In verse 15, Jesus asks, “But who do you say I am?” What is significant about Peter’s response in verse 16? What does this reveal about Peter’s faith and understanding?
- According to verses 17–18, how does Jesus respond to Peter’s confession? What do we learn here about how the Church is built?
- In verse 19, Jesus talks about giving Peter “the keys of the kingdom.” What do you think this means in the context of the church’s role and mission? How might this apply to us today?

PRACTICE AND IMPLEMENT (» 45 MIN)

Practice right now:

- Spend a few minutes in individual prayer. Ask the Spirit, “Do I need to commit or recommit to being part of building Jesus’ church?”
- We, the Church, are not a building, but a people. Discuss what it looks like to actively contributing to the life, mission, and unity of the church.

REFLECT AND PRAY (» 15 MIN)

Facilitators: Move into smaller groups of 2-3 for the next movement.

- Spend 5-7 minutes in smaller groups. Share with each other what you experienced in your individual reflection time and share what you need to do to more actively engage in the body of Christ.
- Come back together and encourage your community to pray and process this week:
 - **Take spiritual responsibility:** Where might God be calling you to open doors for others — through prayer, invitation, service, or leadership?
 - **Pray for a deeper revelation of Jesus as the foundation of the church:** Just like Peter’s confession came from the Father (v.17), ask God to deepen your understanding and love for Christ.
- Feel free to pass out our Discipleship Priorities (see attachment)

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DISCIPLESHIP PRIORITIES

1 Life as Prayer: We are a people who practice prayer as a lifestyle, both individually and corporately.

2 Guided by the Scriptures: We order our lives from the truth in God's Word, teaching and building up the body of Christ with God-given wisdom.

3 Empowered by the Holy Spirit: God's Spirit redeems, sanctifies, and heals the whole person empowering his people for effective gospel ministry in the world.

4 Relational Living: We are made for relationships and experience transformation through the context of community in the family God is building as we gather in formative environments and engage in spiritual practices and the sacraments of baptism and communion.

5 Sacrificial Generosity: Since God is the abundant owner of all things, we live as generous stewards to reflect the goodness of God.

6 Committed Service: We serve one another, our neighbors, and the nations because we see ourselves as Jesus saw himself, a servant of all.

7 Driven in Mission: With boldness and confidence through the power of the Holy Spirit, we join God's work of renewal by living as witnesses of the gospel through love and acts of justice, sharing and demonstrating the saving grace of Jesus as we make disciples.

8 Intentional Multiplication: As we apprentice to Jesus, we make disciples who build the kingdom of God through developing and sending leaders throughout our church family and beyond while investing in future church multiplication in our region and in the nations.