



Descriptions of a Healthy Church

Icebreaker: What is your Favorite Christmas carol?

Read Together: Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV), Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

Discuss:

- Jesus' command was for discipleship. How have you been discipled in your walk with Christ?
- What was the context of the Scripture when Jesus stated that wherever 2 or 3 gathered in His name, he would be with them?

Read Together: Acts 2:38-41 (NIV)

Discuss:

- God places us in a church for a reason. So, what is the church as the Bible Defines it?

1. Devotion to the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.

Read Together:

- Acts 2:14 (ESV)
- Acts 2:42 (ESV)

Discuss:

- The early church kept the main thing the main thing. What is God's Main thing?
- What does God want to do in our church?
- What cuts to the heart of all people the fastest? (Programs? Entertainment? Politics? God's Word?)

2. Devotion to one another.

Read Together:

- Romans 12:10 (ESV)
- Galatians 5:13 (NIV)
- James 4:11 (NIV)
- 1 Peter 5:5 (NIV)

Discuss:

- "One person can be a Christian, but it takes God's people all together in a church to be the body of Christ." Does this make you excited or nervous?
- We practice submission to others when we are in a body of believers! What are some ways being in a body of believers has been great for you? What are some ways that being in a body of believers has been painful?

3. Devotion to God's flow of leadership.

Read Together: 1 Peter 5:2-4 (NIV)

Discuss:

- God has set leaders in local churches for the protection and order of the church. While Humans are flawed, God sets them in leadership for our protection. What has been your experience with leadership?
- How do you react to the word "Submit"?
- Many of us have experienced poor leadership, and that can lead us to be fearful; what reactions of your heart do you need to talk with God about regarding Leaders in your life? (Past or Present)

Pray:

Talk to the Lord about the structure He has laid out in Scripture for His church. Acknowledge any occurrences that you have witnessed or experienced that were not in line with God's way and will for His church. Take time to talk with Him about any time people in leadership misused or even abused you or people you know.

Take time to recognize that God will hold all leaders accountable for how they lead.

Take some time to pray for the leaders currently in your life, especially the ones who are leading you spiritually. Ask God to keep them tightly aligned with Him and His word.