



House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on April 25, 2021

Sermon: The Nature and Purpose of Church
Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gathering Guidelines

-Watch Pastor Brian's intro video for this week.

Take some time to worship

Play a worship song. Pray to Jesus. Be in His presence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKGf06YM7rQ> How Great Thou Art (Celtic Worship)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=414dGGTedpM> Holy Holy Holy (Hillsong)

Read

Ephesians 1:15-23

Discussion Questions

(Notice: In our ongoing efforts to improve your House Church experience we are developing more options for the study questions. You will notice that you will have the main questions as before, but on the right side you will also have a column of questions that you can use as alternatives, or for extending discussion times. We welcome your comments to help us continue to improve. Pastor Brian.)

Icebreaker Question:

If you had a million dollars given to you at House Church right now, how would you respond, and what would you do with it?

Discussion Question #1:

Ephesians is a book that focuses on the Church. We all have ideas of what the 'church' is. What do *you* think Church is?

-Did you know that the 'Church' is really not a building but it's the people of God?
-Have you ever had an experience in Church that seemed not that great? How did that make you feel?

Discussion Question #2:

Read Ephesians 1:15-17.

Paul is talking to believers in this passage and he is asking the Father to bless them with the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation. Revelation is new knowledge and Wisdom is knowledge put into action. Paul is asking for this so that the believers would know God better.

How can knowing God better be helpful in being the Church?

-Did you know that Jesus is the Head of the Church?
-What kinds of things do you think Jesus would like to see in His Church?

Discussion Question #3:

The Church is God's living Family here on earth. When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He broke the power of sin that held people apart from God. When someone repents (which means acknowledging their sin and turning toward a new life in Jesus) they are made brand new when they are forgiven.

In verse 18-19 Paul asks that God would bless the Church with 'enlightenment' in their hearts so they could really see just how amazing it is to be a part of this new Family.

He talks about 'hope' here. . .what kind of hope do you think he is talking about?

He also talks about a 'glorious inheritance'. What do you think that means?

Notice that the 'glorious inheritance' that Paul talks about here is found in the saints. What do you think this means?

Discussion Question #4:

In verse 19 Paul writes about this power that is at work in the Church. It's the same kind of power that raised Jesus from the dead!

Can you think of examples of how this amazing power of God is being expressed in your church?

Can you think of how this power *should* be expressed in your church?

-God's power is expressed in lots of different ways. It takes a lot of power to love someone that you really don't like at all and that's part of what it means to be Church.

-Do you need help in life? God's power is available for you because He loves you dearly. You can ask your House Church to pray for you now if you want...

Discussion Question #5:

Verse 23 says that Jesus is the "head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

The Church is the fullness of Jesus. Everything that Jesus is and does is to be done through the Church. This is a pretty incredible statement isn't it!

Take a moment and think about what you know about Jesus. It doesn't matter if you don't know a whole lot about Him, just try and remember what you know of Jesus.

Now imagine that those things you thought about Jesus are all happening in the Church. . .

Two questions:

- 1. What do you think the attitude of the people at church would be?**
- 2. What do you think the attitude of the people in the community would be toward the church?**

Invitation and Mission for this week

This week you are invited to begin to believe that everything that Jesus is and does also can be done in and through His Church (which is the fullness of Him). With this in mind, what is something you and your House Church could do to bless someone in your community?

Pray for each other