

NS LIFE GROUPS

Ekklesia- Week 1

Various Texts

July 14, 2019

Main Idea: The Origins of the Church

Icebreaker: How long have you been connected to Northstar, and how did you get connected here? Was active involvement with a church a priority in your family's life while you were growing up?

Study:

Ekklesia is a Greek word meaning "called out ones." It is the Greek word that the New Testament uses for "church." This sermon is all about the origins of the Church.

- 1. Read Matthew 16:18.** Jesus was the first person to use the word for "church." Because Jesus ordained the church to be the means he uses to redeem and rescue the world, Satan consistently attacks the church.
 - What are some ways that Satan attacks the church? (*Possible answers: He promotes division and disunity, false teaching, distracts us from what we should be focused on, tempts key leaders to sin, etc.*)
 - What can we do to fight against Satan's attacks on the church? (*Possible answers: Be people who strive for unity and who fight against division, pray urgently for our church and its leaders, etc.*)
- 2. We looked at five things true churches should always focus on: Biblical Teaching, The Person of Jesus Christ, The Centrality of the Cross, The Empowerment of the Holy Spirit, The Repentance of Sins.**
 - Why is each of these elements important for a true, healthy church to have?
 - What is the danger for a church if any one of these elements is neglected?
 - Why do some pastors and churches shy away from preaching about repentance?
 - Why is repentance actually a really good thing?

Application:

- 1. What from this lesson was the most significant or impactful truth for you?**
- 2. How does your thinking need to change, or what step of obedience do you need to take after this lesson?**
- 3. What do we need to commit to praying for Northstar based on today's discussion?**

Close your group time with prayer for each other's prayer requests and with some intentional time of praying for God's favor, guidance, and protection for Northstar.