

NS LIFE GROUPS

Ekklesia- Week 2

Various Texts

July 21, 2019

Main Idea: What the Church Does—Five Biblical Characteristics of a Real Church

Icebreaker: How do you know a church is healthy?

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 about what the church does.

Five Biblical Characteristics of a Real Church:

1. Pray! (Read Matthew 21:13; Acts 2:42, 4:29-31)

- Why is prayer such an important part of the life of the church?
- What should churches be praying for in addition to praying for help during times of trouble? (*Boldness and favor to share the gospel and advance God’s kingdom, etc.*)

2. Grow! (Read Acts 9:31)

- What is an appropriate attitude for a church to have toward numerical growth? (*We should never desire growth for the glory of Northstar. However, lost, un-churched people matter to God, so they should matter to us. That’s why we should care so much about reaching people who don’t know Jesus.*)

3. Make Disciples! (Read Acts 11:25-26)

- What is the difference between making “converts” and making “disciples”? (*With making converts, the focus is just on praying a prayer of salvation. A focus on making disciples leads to mature Christ followers who can also teach others to follow Christ.*)
- How do we help people grow as disciples at Northstar? (Connecting in discipling relationships through life groups and D-groups [Discipleship Groups])

4. Send! (Read Acts 13:1-3)

- What do we mean by saying we want to be known not for our “seating capacity” but for our “sending capacity”? (*We don’t just want to be a church that grows big. We want to be a church that sends many people out to share the gospel in our city and around the world.*)
- What are some ways that you could possibly be a part of a “sending” culture at Northstar? (*Go on short-term mission trips; relocate your life to somewhere else for the sake of God’s Kingdom; give generously to support long-term missionaries on the mission field; pray regularly for missionaries and that God would raise up long-term missionaries and church planters from Northstar, etc.*)

5. Celebrate! (Read Acts 14:27, 15:3-4)

- What things that God has done do we need to intentionally celebrate at Northstar? (*Salvations, baptisms, missionaries sent, generous giving, people connected in life groups and growing deep in their faith, etc.*)

Application:

- 1. How does your thinking need to change, or what step of obedience do you need to take after this lesson?**
- 2. What NEXT STEP do you need to take at Northstar in response to 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 and guidance on the Northstar body.