

10/1/17 Small Group Questions

***Reminder for leaders: These questions are to be used to produce discussion that drives at knowing and obeying truth, and lovingly holding each other accountable. Be flexible during discussion... the goal is not answering every question but forming them to your group for maximum impact.

LEARN

What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday? What was most helpful, encouraging or challenging to your walk with Christ?

Being a member of a church is like being a member of a *body*. Why is this particular metaphor of a “body member” important versus other types of “membership” common in our day? (It’s not Sam’s or Costco. It’s not a club. It’s not fee-based. It’s belonging, integration, and everyone contributing to the body being healthy and growing. Consider reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

Read 1 Peter 5:1-3. How do these verses reinforce the need to have church membership be real and identifiable? (v. 1 – “elders among you” – this is a very specific, known group of leaders that people knew. If you don’t know who your leaders are, how do you obey this verse? V. 2 - “flock of God among you” - elders cannot obey God in this if there isn’t a means of identification. Oversight, being examples... these are relational terms pertaining to specific group.)

PRACTICE

What are some of the tangible results a Christian should experience when they commit to one local church body? (There are **many**. Some include the “one anothers” (love, encourage, exhort, admonish, bear with) being actively engaged in. They serve and are served by others. Real, tangible care when they are in need. Being known and knowing others. Confirmation of salvation as people see the fruit of your life. Having leaders care for your soul in a meaningful way.)

For those who have become members of Harvest: What has it meant to you to be a member here? What are the discernible differences between “attending” Harvest and being a member at Harvest? (Some ideas could be a greater felt responsibility for Harvest’s health, unity, love and submission to God; serving the body I belong to with joy; increased belonging and commitment, knowing who my leadership is that I am to lovingly submit to)

CHANGE

What should accountability look like in our group as we think about being members of one another? (Open sharing of our life in all facets; being real about our sins, struggles, doubts; serving one another in love; encourage, exhort, rebuke for the sake of greater godliness; do not abandon these relationships if there’s strife)

How do you need to ask God to change your mind and heart about membership at Harvest? Together, pray that God unites our church as a healthy body that brings him glory.