



RECAPTURING JESUS' VISION FOR HIS CHURCH

Week 1 | We Don't Always Get It Right | Matthew 16:18

DIVERSITIES IN THE CHURCH ARE BEAUTIFUL
DEPARTURES FROM CHRIST'S VISION FOR THE CHURCH ARE NOT.

I was driving to church the other morning, which happens to also be my drive to work and to drop Levi off at school, and I noticed something disturbing, I was driving on autopilot. You know, not really paying attention to my surroundings. Following the car in front of me through a light without checking to see what color the light was. Realizing that there was significant construction that had happened without my noticing. It dawned on me that I was so accustomed to taking this route that I literally was going through the driving motions like a robot. In a similar way, I think our experience of church can become robotic. We can be on autopilot, just going through the motions, without really engaging or knowing what we should be engaging in or even why. The truth is that most of us don't even know what the word church means or what Jesus' original vision for the church was. The loss can be immeasurable. Maybe more than ever, God's people need to recapture Jesus' original vision for His church. That journey begins by going back to some of the key things that He said and having the boldness to live them out together.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to reflect and pray over this series. Pray that there would be a fresh work of God's Spirit in your life and your Life Group, which would lead to an illumination of God's Word, clarity concerning what the church is, and a renewed appreciation and love for God's people.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

- 1. Pastor Derek defined the word church (see definition below). Discuss the definition as a Life Group. Does the definition fit your experience, or perception of the church (Awaken Las Vegas and the church in general)? In what way has your life been blessed and changed by being part of a community of people that Christ has called to Himself.

The church is the community of Christ's people which He calls into being in and around Himself, who live by faith in God's Word, in loving relationship with one another, and as empowered witnesses for the gospel to the unbelieving world.

- 2. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said to Peter, "And on this Rock, I will build my church." What was the rock that Jesus was talking about? What are the implications of the words, I will build my church? (i.e., whose church is it, who is responsible for building it, who is at the center)



We get it wrong when we think of the church as a religious institution governed by a religious power structure.

3. Pastor Derek mentioned that in some cases, the church in America can be likened to a convenience store. The pastors and programs are the vendors and products, and the people are the customers.

What are the dangers of having that type of “consumeristic” approach to the church? How can we develop healthy Biblical culture in our church?

We get it wrong when we adopt the world’s culture instead of creating Biblical culture.

4. We get the church wrong when we focus on ourselves instead of prioritizing reaching lost souls.

How are you actively engaged in reaching lost people with the gospel? How can your Life Group be more proactive in this mission?



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

John 3:3

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, spend time interceding for Awaken Las Vegas. Ask God for a fresh move of God’s Holy Spirit, for 100% of the people to be completely committed to Him, and for His presence to be manifested among us.

We will be waiting with anticipation to see how God faithfully answers your prayers.