

Volunteer Sign Ups

As you pray about activating and engaging in the church as part of the body of Christ, consider signing up to serve as a volunteer! It is an honor and true blessing to serve others and be an active part of the mission of the church. We currently have many areas in need!



EKKLESIA

RECAPTURING JESUS' VISION FOR HIS CHURCH

Week 9 | We Should Be An Army | Revelation 3:8

WHEN THE CHURCH IS UNITED AROUND GOD'S PURPOSE AND FULFILLING IT IN GOD'S WAY THERE'S NOT A MORE POWERFUL GROUP OF PEOPLE ON THE PLANET.

Military terminology has been used to describe the church for centuries. It makes sense, considering that the language of Scripture leans in that direction. For instance, Paul likened Timothy to a soldier. Terms such as weapons, warfare, battle, and armor are used to describe the Christian's spiritual conflict. Moreover, there is a real enemy, real battle lines are drawn, and there is a winning side and a losing side. And to cap it off, the Bible declares that our God rules over His heavenly armies. There is a downside, namely that the church can devolve into a group of people who use worldly methods to accomplish worldly objectives under a false banner of God's purpose. The Crusades of the 11th and 12th centuries are the most obvious example of the church getting the concept of warfare wrong. The consequences of that catastrophe linger with us today. That said, there is a significant upside for the church using military terminology and having a military mindset. On the most basic level, we must be reminded that we aren't disconnected individuals on our independent journeys with Jesus, seeking to fulfill our own unique mission. That is hardly the case. The church is a united community of God's people collectively pursuing His mission, using His resources, advancing His kingdom, and all for His glory.

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 weekend's message. Ask God to show you how you can be more connected to the mission He has set before Awaken Las Vegas.



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 mentioned that the life of the Christian should be a vibrant reflection of the transforming power of God's love. This type of life attracts the nonbeliever to the gospel.

Is your life, your lifestyle, the way you walk with Jesus attracting people to Him? Explain how that is the case. Or why that is not the case.

Men despise religion. They hate it and are afraid it may be true. The cure for this is first to show that religion is not contrary to reason, but worthy of reverence and respect. Next make it attractive, make good men and women wish it were true, and then show that it is. Make no mistake, the gospel transforms people but your life attracts them to it.

- Blaise Pascal

2. Sequoia Redwood trees can grow hundreds of feet high and have a circumference at their base of over 30 feet. They are the goliaths of trees. Surprisingly, their root structure is only 6'-12' deep, hardly enough to sustain them during storms. The secret to their strength is that the root system of the trees are intertwined. In other words, they are strong and stable because the trees are connected in community. It is the same for the church.

Spend time evaluating your unity and community with other Christians. Are there any weaknesses or broken relationships or bad behavior patterns in your life that need to be addressed?

Christians don't cancel each other over differences.

3. According to Ephesians 4:11, the purpose of the 'office' gifts in Scripture are to equip God's people for the ministry. This means that every Christian is in the ministry, and every Christian should be, being equipped or trained.

How are you approaching your spiritual training? Do you need to be more intentional? Do you need to be more receptive to the exhortations and encouragements that are being given to you so you can grow?

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-12

4. **Describe how you are using the spiritual weapons God gave you to fight the spiritual battle you are in.**



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

Philippians 1:27

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, choose one way to be more engaged in the mission of Awaken Las Vegas and one spiritual weapon you are going to use more intentionally.

We will be waiting with anticipation to see what God does through your life as you take these steps.