

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

REFORMED

THE CHURCH GOD IS CALLING US TO BE.

## CONNECT GROUP TO EACH OTHER

1. Who is someone in your life that really needs to hear that God is FOR them?
2. What kind of difference could that make in their life/faith?
3. When was the first time you really understood that personally?

## CONNECT GROUP TO GOD

Here's a question every church should consider: if our church went out of business, would the community even notice? When a Church is FOR the community, FOR people, they will notice. We want to show our community that we are FOR them because God is FOR them? As it says in Jeremiah 29, seek the peace and prosperity of the community in which God has carried you. Pray for it and bless it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

1. Have you ever attended a church that wasn't really noticed in its community?
2. Why do you think that was? What was the priority of that church?
3. How is our vision (FOR St. Charles) different from the priorities of many other churches?

## APPLY THE TEACHING

In the message, we connected Martin Luther's Reformation in 1517 to our worship series "reFORMed". For Luther, he saw that the church had forgotten the Gospel: people are saved because of the grace and love of God that comes from Jesus Christ. This is a free gift from a God who is for us, not against us. Luther knew that without emphasizing the grace of God the people would never know God is FOR them.

The best example of the Church embracing this is in Acts 2 when Peter shares God's love for people and 3,000 come to faith and are baptized on Pentecost day. From that point on it only took 200 years for the Church to grow from 25,000 to 20 million people, with no seminaries, no professors, no church buildings, no full New Testament Canon, no creeds, and the whole time under intense persecution. So how did they do it? They kept his Church on the mission he gave: to seek and save the lost. The Church knew what it was for. It was FOR people.

1. Why is it so hard for vision to stick? Why do leaders need to be repeaters?
2. Why are most people only aware of what the Church is against?
3. Do you think it is right for a Christian to lead a spiritual conversation with a "Law-mindset"?
4. What did you think of the advice to instead Create Common Ground, Create Conversations, and let God Create Connections?