

Small Group Guide

Week of September 8, 2024

Speaker: Mark Delaney

Focused & United



Icebreaker



- What's something unique or special about the place where you grew up that shaped who you are today?
- Have you ever found an old key and couldn't remember what it was for? What did you do with it?
- If you could assemble a dream team for any activity (sports, cooking, trivia), who would be on it and why?



Discussion Questions



- Philippians 1:27 encourages us to live in a manner worthy of the gospel. What does that look like in your daily life?
- When Paul talks about living as citizens of heaven, how does that challenge your current lifestyle or priorities?
- How have smaller, more intimate groups or relationships within the church impacted your spiritual growth?
- What "key" in your life might you be holding onto without realizing its potential? How can you use it to make a difference?
- How do you navigate the messiness of relationships in a way that reflects Christ's love? Can you share a time when God worked through the mess?
- What practical steps can you take to ensure that you remain focused and united with others in your faith community?
- The sermon mentions that division is a tool of the enemy. Have you ever experienced division within a church or community? How was it resolved, or how could it have been handled differently?
- How do you see serving others as a part of being focused and united in the mission of the church? How can you practically incorporate more service into your life?



Thought for the Group



This week we explored the power of being focused and united in our mission as followers of Christ. Just as soldiers must stay focused on their mission and united as a team, we, as believers, must do the same in our spiritual journey.

Jesus established the church not as a physical kingdom but as a community of believers united by a common mission: to make disciples and spread the Gospel. When the church is focused on this mission and united in purpose, it becomes powerful, unstoppable, and transformative, just like the early church in Acts chapter two.

However, Paul's letter to the Philippians reminds us that living a life worthy of the Gospel means more than just personal piety; it means living in unity with others. He challenges us to live as citizens of heaven, reflecting our identity in Christ through how we love, support, and care for each other.

We were reminded that true church life extends beyond Sunday services—it's about doing life together throughout the week, being there for one another, and staying united in our mission to reach the world for Christ. By focusing on Jesus and staying united with our spiritual family, we unlock the true power and purpose of the church in our lives and our communities.

Let's commit to being a group that is focused on our mission and united in our love for each other.



Next Steps



- Reach out to someone in your church or small group with whom you may have experienced tension or division. Make an effort to reconcile, forgive, or simply strengthen that relationship.
- Reflect on a gift or opportunity you've been hesitant to pursue. Commit to taking one tangible step towards using that gift for God's kingdom.