

# Church Rediscovered, week 1

## *A suggested outline for small groups*

### Notes to facilitator:

- Feel free to add, subtract or modify anything - and be creative.
- Make sure that things keep moving, and that no part drags on too long. The discussion part should not exceed 45 minutes. Keep energy levels high throughout.
- Be careful not to intimidate any new people, especially unchurched ones. Explain things. Let people know they don't have to pray aloud.
- Make sure that everyone contributes, not just a few people.
- Be enthusiastic, personal and real. This will set the tone for everyone else.

### **Optional: get-to-know-you question**

- Were your initial experiences of church positive or negative?

**Optional: listen to 5-min recap of Sunday's meeting.** Download it.

### **Scriptures to be read**

- Read Matthew 16:18 and Acts 2:41-47.

### **1) The church that Jesus is building gives itself to the gospel.**

- What would you say 'the gospel' is?
- Anyone want to share how exposure to the gospel brought them to the point of salvation?
- Anyone want to share of a recent experience of how understanding the gospel more deeply led to deeper joy or spiritual growth?

### **2) The church that Jesus is building gives itself to the sacraments of baptism and communion.**

- Anyone want to share their baptism experience?
- If you were to explain to an unbaptized Christian why they needed to get baptized, what would you say?
- How can we make sure that communion stays something special, as opposed to something potentially meaningless?
- How can we as a home group from time to time creatively incorporate communion into our times together? (*Suggestion: get someone to lead next week.*)

### **3) The church that Jesus is building gives itself to the scriptures.**

- Any advice anyone can share about getting more out of the Sunday message?
- How can we as a home group make sure that the scriptures stay central when we gather together?
- What have you read in the Bible recently that has been meaningful to you?
- Anyone here done the Grounded Course? If so, tell us about the impact it had on you.

### **Praying together**

- As a group, or perhaps in smaller sub-groups, pray together. Freshly devote yourselves to the gospel, the sacraments and the scriptures.
- If there are any special prayer needs, pray for them too.