



I SEE A CHURCH

Discussion Guide

I SEE A CHURCH

by David Emery

When did church become a building?

When did church become something you go to and then leave?

Take away the buildings and the church will remain.

The church is people.

We see the church everywhere, and we don't even know it.

We see it in unexpected acts of kindness.

In small moments of service and love and grace.

We see church in welcoming smiles and outstretched arms.

The real church is rarely flashy or eye-catching or shiny.

What if we saw church for what it is?

Imperfect, flawed people loving God and loving each other.

Living out the love of Jesus,

embracing people where they are.

What if we dreamed of a church that we could be together?

Let's talk about the church that we want to be.

The church that Christ is calling us to be.

I see a church....

Session Overview

Session 1

I See a Church: Shining Brightly for Generations
Matthew 5:14-16

Session 2

I See a Church: Marked by God's Power and Presence
Acts 4:1-13

Session 3

I See a Church: Feeding Hungry People
Matthew 14:13-21

Session 4

I See a Church: Moving Forward Together
John 17:20-26

I See A Church videos are available online at
MiddletownChristian.org/iseeachurch

Weekly sermons are available at
MiddletownChristian.org/sermons

SESSION 1

I SEE A CHURCH

Shining Brightly for Generations

Matthew 5:14-16

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16 NIV

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the challenges of being light in a dark world?
2. What about our church's 182 year history inspires you?
3. Where do you see our church shining brightly in the future?
4. How are you being called to shine as a bright light?

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Marked by God's Power & Presence

Acts 4:1-13

"Peter's life did not change overnight. He changed over the long arc of his life as Jesus met him in his moments of weakness and failure. Peter let Jesus into his life, and Jesus used those moments to change him."

David Emery

Discussion Questions

1. How does Peter's story encourage you?
2. When have you seen an example of God's power and presence in someone else's life?
3. Where have you seen God's power and presence at work in your life?
4. Where have you seen God's power and presence at work in our church?

SESSION 3

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Feeding Hungry People

Matthew 14:13-21

“God says to ordinary people like you and me that instead of closing our eyes and bowing our heads, sometimes God wants us to keep our eyes open for people in need, do something about it, and bow our whole lives to Him instead.”

Bob Goff

Discussion Questions

1. What does the Church have to offer spiritually hungry people?
2. Where do you see people in need in our community and our world?
3. When have you seen our church meeting people's needs?
4. What were the biggest challenges the disciples faced on the hillside with Jesus? How did they overcome those challenges?
5. What does it mean for you to bow your whole life to God?

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Moving Forward Together

John 17:20-26

“The church I see isn’t devoted to keeping the wrong people out. It’s a family of imperfect people, saved by grace, committed to tearing down the walls, throwing open the doors, and shouting, ‘Welcome! Come and sit with us at Christ’s table.’”

David Emery

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the reasons people have given up on the Church today?
2. What are some reasons to not give up on the church?
3. What can we learn from Jesus’ prayer for the church about moving forward together?
4. What kind of commitments do Christians need to make to each other to move forward together?



MiddletownChristian.org

500 N. Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY 40243
Worship with us: Sundays at 8:30, 9:50, and 11:10 a.m.