



Here is the church – Here is the steeple

**STRUCTURED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: pick 4-5 for the group**

What is the weirdest or most unique church you've ever attended?

What "grades" and total GPA would you give Sunridge in church essentials covered in the message:

1. Christ centered:
2. Reliance on the Holy Spirit:
3. Biblical:
4. Accountable human leadership:
5. Growing people into ministry:
6. Expressing faith as a community:

TOTAL GPA:

How would you grade yourself on the same?

Have copies for the group of *What We Believe and Vision & Values* (available on the website). Without going down the list of each, ask the group if they have questions about any. What are we doing well at? What do you think we can improve upon?

What does *a church is centered on Jesus Christ* mean to you? In your opinion, how should a statement like that affect a church? In what areas could you improve personally on that?

In what ways do you think a church should *rely on the Holy Spirit*?

Read Eph 4:11-16. What are the individual roles you see found in Paul's words and who is to fulfill each? What is the biggest challenge for you in this passage? Why does Paul say these roles are so important?



Read 2 Cor 9:5-8. What does Paul say about giving in these verses? How are you personally challenged by his words?

Do you think the *essential structures* listed are important to a church? In your opinion, which of the ones listed is the most important in building a healthy church? What would you add to the list?

### **CONTEMPLATIVE DISCUSSION MODEL:**

*Ask these of the group or break into groups of 2-3 to allow people to interact more.*

In what ways are you relying on your church today? Does Sunridge meet your expectations of a church?

How are you contributing to the work God is doing at Sunridge?

What are you learning about God from the message?

What are you learning about yourself from the message?

What questions did the message leave you with?

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?



### **Leader's Guide: Here is the steeple.**

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“Here is the church; here is the steeple. Open the doors; see all the people.” You may remember that little rhyme - along with its hand gestures - from your childhood. But studies tell us that in America this year, when the doors open there will actually be less people to see inside than in years past. Has the church lost its mojo? Our *Here Is the Church* series rediscovers why church matters and just how much you matter to your church.

### **OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES**

***The church exists to show the grace and kindness of Jesus Christ (Eph 2:6-7)***

Eph 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7 IN ORDER THAT in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

#### **Periods of the church:**

- **Ministry of Jesus and the Disciples**
  
- **AD – 4<sup>th</sup> Century: *Informal organization and vibrant.***
  
- **4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Centuries: *Christianity is the prevailing national religion***
  
- **Medieval Period/6<sup>th</sup> Century – 1500: *A centralized Church***
  
- **1500 – Present: *Reformation***

### **CHURCH ESSENTIALS**

#### **1. A Church Is Centered On Jesus Christ**

Eph 1:22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church;

Eph 2:20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.



## ***Sunridge is a Christ-centered church.***

### *Sunridge Vision & Values*

- ***We exist because of—and for—Jesus.*** At Sunridge, we put Jesus first. We understand that through Jesus we have access to the gift of grace that leads to salvation, as well as transformation. Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16-17
- ***We worship Jesus.*** Worship is a celebration of who God is and what He has done. We believe worship is more than music and permeates all facets of our lives. A life filled with worship is essential for us to grow and know God better. 1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 145; Colossians 3:1-4

### **When a church replaces Jesus it becomes hell on earth; when Jesus is the center it becomes a little bit of heaven on earth**

Eph 1:10 when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

### **2. A Church Relies On The Holy Spirit**

Ac 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

1Co 12:3 no-one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

1Co 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

Eph 5:18 be filled with the Spirit.

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God

***We believe all Christians are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit at the moment they believe in Christ, and are empowered, guided, and instructed by the Spirit as they yield their lives to God.*** Acts 2:38; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18

### **3. A Church Establishes Its Teachings, Beliefs, Doctrines, And Ministry On The Bible**

1Ti 4:13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

2Ti 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season;

2Ti 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Ac 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.



1Ti 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely.

***We believe the Bible is inspired by God and is both trustworthy and authoritative.***

2 Timothy 3:16-17

***We teach the Bible.*** *The Bible is God's word to us. Through it, God transforms our hearts and lives. We see the Bible as one story that is focused on God's ultimate act of salvation in Jesus Christ, and we teach it in ways that everyone can understand. Luke 24:27; 1 Corinthians 1:22-23, 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:5*

#### **4. A Church Has An Accountable Human Leadership - Elders**

Tit 1:5 appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

1Ti 5:17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor,

#### **Mutual Submission:**

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1Pet 5:2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care

Eph 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

***Our elders help to shepherd the spiritual well-being of the congregation by giving oversight and direction to the church.***

Sunridge's current model:

**Policy Governance:** *The board governs the affairs of the church through policies that enable the lead pastor to direct the operations of the church.*

#### **5. A Church Grows People Into Ministry**

Eph 4:11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

***We make disciples.*** *We believe that all followers of Jesus are called to make disciples. Whether it's at home, at school, at work, or around the world, we equip people to grow in God's love and share that love in meaningful ways. Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:8*

#### **6. A Church Is Designed To Express Faith As A Community**



### HOW DO WE STACK UP?

1. **Christ centered: A** (cautiously)
2. **Reliance on the Holy Spirit: B** (imposed on us occasionally)
3. **Biblical: B+**
4. **Accountable human leadership: A+**
5. **Growing people into ministry: C**
6. **Expressing faith as a community: B-**

**3.1GPA** – not Ivy League material but we can get into UC schools