

Identity Crisis
Week 1: A Simple Church
November 1st, 2020

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of life.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

2020 has forced the world to change and adapt. This series is looking at how Church has to change as we move forward. Looking back on the last 8 months, what has been the biggest change you have experienced? OR What has changed for you personally during the last 8 months?

INTRODUCTION

We are entering into a new and very important series titled ***Identity Crisis***. We have all experienced a year of change and unexpected transitions in our lives and in the world. The church is not exempt from this change or "crisis" that we are in. How might God be using the current crisis to transform His Church for His work in the 21st Century? Our first series begins to answer that in study called ***A Simple Church***.

Our story comes from two different passages of scripture Matthew 22:36-40 and John 13:34-35.

Bible Storytelling: Matthew 22:36-40, John 13:34-35

- Tell the Story: This week's story will be told by one of our group members.
- Examine the Story: Looking at Matthew 22:36-40 and John 13:34-35 in your Bible, what did the storyteller add or omit in their retelling? Does anything else stand out to you?
- Read the story: Have someone in your group read the passage of scripture as everyone else follows along in their Bible.

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

- **In our culture, love can be a confusing blend of attraction and emotions. Based on His life and ministry, how do you think Jesus might define love?**
- **Who does Jesus command us to love in today's scriptures?**
- **With Jesus' definition of love in mind, and His commands as our goal, how is the Church called to live?**
- **What are some ways the contemporary Church in America loves well, and where might we identify opportunities for improvement?**
- **In light of Jesus' mandates to love God, love our neighbors, and love each other, where might you personally focus?**
- **What passionate actions can you take to help you grow in love?**
- **CLOSING PRAYER**-Spend some time in prayer, pray for the season we are in, for those that may be affected, for the community, for our world. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.