

Identity Crisis
Week 2: An Intentional Church
November 8th, 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:

Share something that you consider a privilege to do or participate in.

INTRODUCTION

Last week we began our series ***Identity Crisis*** by looking at clarifying our ministry as God's Church by studying the commands of Jesus; Love God, love your neighbor, and love each other. This forms the foundation of being ***A Simple Church***.

This week we move from what we believe into putting these teachings into practice. This week's study looks at becoming ***An Intentional Church***. Our story for our time together comes from Ephesians 3:6-11.

Bible Storytelling: Ephesians 3:6-11

- Tell the Story: This week's story will be told by one of our group members.
- Examine the Story: Looking at Ephesians 3:6-11 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.

- **How does Paul refer to the practice of serving God?**
- **In what ways has the modern church diminished the "privilege" of serving in favor of being served?**
- **How might a person experience a subtle shift in their engagement in the church that leads them from serving to being served?**
- **In what ways might intentional cultivation of spiritual discipline help us regain our focus and restore our purpose as God's Church?**
- **How might your group help each other begin to develop and practice spiritual disciplines?**
- **What will you do this week to be intentional about serving God and His mission of 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.