

WHY DOES THE CHURCH MATTER? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

VARIOUS PASSAGES

1 **What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of church?** What were your first/early experiences of attending church? Were those positive or negative experiences in your faith journey and why?

2 **You may wake up on Sunday mornings and decide to go to church.** But is church simply a place you go? Is church a destination or is it something more?

 *Take a moment and define "the church."*

 *Someone once said, "Church is something we are." What does that mean to you?*

 *How might your life look different if you lived as though church wasn't a destination or an event, but something you are?*

3 **According to Galatians 6:10 and Ephesians 2:19, the church is described as a _____ of faith, or in other words, a family.** With that imagery in mind, how should members of the church treat one another? What ingredient, according to 1 Cor. 13:13, is the most necessary glue?

 *How has the church been like a family to you? Think of an example to share with your study group.*

 *Sometimes families have points of conflict or struggle with one another. What are some passages of scripture or principles of God's Word that would guide you in resolving problems and finding reconciliation?*

4 **Two other ways God describes the church are found in 1 Corinthians 12:25, which pictures the church as _____, and Ephesians 2:20-22, which pictures the church as _____.** What valuable lessons about the church should we learn from these points of emphasis?

5 **Mark Dever described church membership as "A covenant of union between a particular church and a Christian, which consist of the church's affirmation of the Christian's gospel profession, the church's promise to give oversight to the Christian, and the Christian's promise to gather with the church and submit to its oversight."**

 *Evaluate that definition. How does it differ from what you've thought or experienced of church membership? Does this definition make it more or less appealing to you and why?*

 *Do you think it is important for Christians to be members of local churches? Why?*

