

who needs church?

Week One | Proud People | 04.18-19.2020

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90 minute group gathering.

Message Recap:

» Opening

(2-3 minutes)

- Introductions - this is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members
- Housekeeping - clarify expectations
 - **Announcements:** These are in your Community News email. **Please read and communicate! Encourage participation!**
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting
 - **Remember there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - open your time together in prayer

» Introduction

(12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: In one word, how would you define the word "church?"
- Digging Deeper: How do you think about 'before Jesus' in your life if you became a Christian very young?

» Observation | Read Ephesians 2:1-10

(12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to this passage? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | What if we bowed instead of staying proud?

(12 minutes)

- What are the reasons you have or have heard for why people walked away from church? What do you notice about these reasons?
- How does pride prevent people from seeing Jesus?

» The Walking Dead | Reference Ephesians 2:1-3

(12 minutes)

- Paul is writing to a church reminding them of who they were before they met Jesus. Why is this important?
- If you were a holy God, what would you do with the people that were described by Paul in these first three verses?

» Divine Intervention | Reference Ephesians 2:4-7

(12 minutes)

- Have you ever been caught red-handed and not been punished?
- What does the following statement mean? *God had to look at Jesus and see us and our sin on the cross so that he can look at us and see Jesus.* Why is this such a powerful statement?

» No Bragging Rights | Reference Ephesians 2:8-10

(12 minutes)

- God's mercy and love intervened in our lives on purpose and to give us a purpose; how does your life show that purpose right now?
- What are the 'good works' Jesus has prepared for you to do right now?
- What are the bragging rights of your life that you need to give up so you can live a life that reflects who Jesus is to those around you?

» Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- How can you humble yourself and find a way to help someone in this time when people are struggling in so many ways?
- Close by praying for each other to reflect Jesus and for our community who have been hurt by church to see who Jesus really is in us.