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?

6		at do you think it means that the church is God's plan for communion with him and community with others? How have you communed a God recently in the corporate gathering of the church?
	•	How have you felt true community recently?
	Q	What would be some positive attributes of "community" in the context of the church?
7		are are different ways that people can take growing steps in their relationship to the church. Look at the three different ideas below and lain what step you may need to take.
		Salvation – Maybe you need to become part of the family of God. That is the first step to embracing His church. You must first embrace the head of the church – Jesus – through faith.
		Membership – Perhaps it's time to get past the idea of church and join an actual local church family. Perhaps you need to take the next step towards becoming a member. Maybe its time for you to be plugged into a local expression of the body of Christ.
		Service – Maybe your commitment level has been low and its time to share the passion that Christ has for the church and get involved. Maybe you're just burdened to invest more of who you are into Christ's church.
8	me	neone tried to describe what it means to really commit to a local church. They came up with some pledge statements to be shared by all nbers. Read the following and share your thoughts with your group. What do you agree or disagree with and why? What encouraged you and at challenged or convicted you?
		I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward other members, by refusing to gossip, and by following the leaders. PRAYER REQUESTS
		I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, and by inviting others to attend.
		I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents, by being equipped to serve by my pastors, and by developing a servant's heart.
		I will support the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, by living a godly life, and by giving regularly.
9	Ho	w important is the church? The answer to this question can be found in the value that God ees on the church. According to Acts 20:28, what did God do for the church?
		According to Ephesians 5:25 what two things did Jesus do for the church?
		According to Hebrews 10:25 what should we not forsake or neglect?