

Session 1: Ecclesia

Overview:

This Sunday, we began a new series, Ecclesia. Mark shared on the misunderstandings of the church and why we gather, and pointed us to the real reasons we gather and how healthy things grow, and how every human is a soul. Some of these misunderstandings include, theater church - the people who are just going for a movie or production experience of church, professional only church - the people who are spiritually elite, emergency room only - people who are hurting and only come when wanting something, country club - people who quote on quote have it all together, therapy - the people that focus on it being about them and making themselves feel better and lastly, create your own consumer - people who want to create a specific service for themselves.

Key Scripture:

- **Matthew 16:13-19**
- **Matthew 5:13**

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways do you personally slip into seeing church as something you attend, rather than something you are?
2. Which of the misunderstandings of the church do you think is most common today, and why?
3. If the church is both gathered and sent, which side do you find easier? Where do you sense God inviting you to grow?
4. Think of someone in your life who needs encouragement, hope or an invitation. What step could you take toward them this month or week?

Prayer:

God, thank you that you have not called us just to come to church, but to be the church and be your witnesses in the world, we pray you would open our eyes to see you clearly and to love each other deeply as you have loved us, send us where we are needed and shape us into people who bring hope and your kingdom into every place we go. In Jesus name, Amen.