

Small Group Discussion Guide

“I love my church” (pt. 1) – 1/5/2015

Scripture: Acts 1:1-3

Bottom Line: We have many reasons to love the church.

INTRODUCTION: List the top three things that you love and why. We get it; you probably love God first and family second, but what about after these. Where does the church rank? Many people have major problems with the church, but Jesus loves the church and so should we. We are the church!

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Discuss these essential biblical truths below:

I love my church because we have the best story: Jesus

We are a church that is centered on Jesus. What else could a church be centered on?

- Politics (whether left or right), social justice, tradition, culture, gossip, good works, prosperity, hate, the Bible (some churches are so concerned about literally following every word they miss the point of Scripture: Jesus.)

I love my church because it's all about the gift of God's grace.

How is God's grace affecting your life lately?

- God does not accept you or love you more based on your performance. He loves and accepts you because Jesus earned your forgiveness and acceptance on the cross. You have been given eternal life freely. Our good works are simply a grateful response to this free gift, this grace.

I love my church because we are imperfect people growing in FAITH in a perfect Savior.

How do you respond to people who say the church is full of hypocrites?

- There are a few ways to answer this, but this is a great opportunity to say that the church is a group of imperfect people who readily admit that they need a perfect Savior to bring redemption to their lives. Admitting this helps us grow in humility.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

I love my church because we are on a MASSIVE mission.

What does it mean to call the mission of God MASSIVE?

- Simply put: it's worldwide and you have the privilege of participating.

Have everyone in your group think about one specific way they can bless TCC.