

“Foundations”

Matthew 16 – The Church



Discussion

1. This is your first community group with The Gathering! Go around the room and make sure everyone knows each other's names. Perhaps share a “fun fact” about yourself that would allow the group to get to know you more.

2. In your opinion, what are some healthy marks of a community group?

3. How have you seen the **value to community groups** in your walk with God?

4. Read through Acts 2:41-47 as a group. Share a few observations that would be helpful to understand the purpose of community groups.

Sermon Application

1. In Community groups, our typical practice is to discuss the text from the sermon. This way, you'll have a chance to discuss and apply to your lives Sunday's sermon. Read about *Peter's profession* in Matthew 16:13-17 and ask your leader to share when they first *professed* (became a Christian). (Hot seat for the leader...haha!)

2. Upon Peter's profession, he was given the “Keys of the kingdom”...authority to proclaim the message of Jesus. This same authority is entrusted to the people of God (Rom 10:17). How is this task humbling to you?

3. The “Keys of the kingdom is also the authority of the church to “bind” (Mt 16:19). Through baptism and membership into local churches, we recognize credible professions of faith and walk alongside them in the local church. Why would this be important?



Reminder: Don't forget to pick up September's Reading Plan!