



THE BIG IDEA

If you want a church that's only filled with people who think and believe all the same things you do, you don't want the church that God wants.

WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

Because the church doesn't exist for the healthy, it exists for the sick. If we get that backwards, we miss the point of the Gospel.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

1. **Commit to being present and participatory, even when that means you are bringing your mess with you to church.**
2. **Invite someone to Forefront, even if they come with a mess.**

START HERE

This series is all about the spiritual rhythms that Christians need to practice to connect with God, and grow in faith. We have been covering a number of topics, and we want our entire church to be a part of the conversation. If you missed any of the messages from Sunday, you can catch up at forefrontnyc.com/rhythms

CONVERSATION GUIDE

This week's message was geared towards helping us understand what we can learn from the rhythm of participating in the local church. Here are some key concepts to explore with the group.

Who is the church made of?

The word "Ekklesia" is the greek word that we translate into "Church." It comes from a combination of two Greek words. "Ek" meaning "out of," and Kaleo, meaning "to call." Christians didn't make the word up, its a word that simply refers to any assembly where people are called out from their homes for a certain purpose. Christians just co-opted the word to describe this new Jesus movement that was happening. People from all different nationalities, religious backgrounds, education levels, socio-economic standing, and political parties, had all been called out of their old lives and into something new. An assembly of *people*. No specific type of person. No prerequisites. No pedigree. All were called out and welcomed into this new "church." Paul says it best in Colossians 3 when he says, "Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ." -Colossians 3:10-11

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Book- *Church: Why Bother* by Philip Yancy- [BUY](#)
- Forefront Blog- [READ](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 5

- FCQ Session 3: LGBTQ and The Church: Building Bridges Across the Divide with Justin Lee at Roulette

NOVEMBER 11

- Panel discussion with Isaac Archuleta from the I Am Institute.

NOVEMBER 12

- Newcomers Dinner - sign up at forefrontnyc.com/newcomers

Who does the church exist for?

The church exists as a representation of the community of God. The early church pooled resources in order to take care of one another's basic needs during persecution. Here in modern America, the church isn't under the threat of persecution and is able to focus her attention outwardly. The church doesn't always get this right, as many of us have experienced, but when it does, the church is capable of generating beauty, love, justice, renewal, and hope in copious amounts. C.S. Lewis once wrote that "A church is the only organization that exists primarily for the benefit of non-members." I love that. We exist for each other, sure, but we primarily exist for those who aren't here yet.

What does the church exist to do?

Lets be honest. People are all varying degrees of messed up. No one has this "being a human" thing figured out. The world is filled with the result of our struggle. Violence, inequality, and racism seem to be everywhere we look. The church is God's answer to what to do about it. Call a bunch of messy people out of their old, messy lives, and commission them to love one another, and love the world around them. God is healing a sick world, and he is doing it through people who gather in His name and live out the teachings of Jesus. Our *eklessia* exists to see lives, neighborhoods, and our city renewed through Jesus, on Earth as it is in Heaven.

BENEDICTION

In closing, pray this prayer together, from Seeking God's Face,

"GREAT AND MIGHTY GOD, BECAUSE OF JESUS I CAN SEEK YOUR FACE; BECAUSE OF JESUS I MAY ENTER YOUR PRESENCE; BECAUSE OF JESUS I'M MADE, WITH ALL YOUR PEOPLE, INTO A HOUSE OF PRAYER; BECAUSE OF JESUS YOUR EARS ARE OPEN TO LISTENING TO MY PRAYERS. AND SO I PRAY IN JESUS NAME, AMEN."