

Message Discussion Guide

Date: Oct 26 & 27

Title: Faith Without Barriers | The Blueprint | Week 4

Connect with Each Other:

Icebreakers

- Have you ever felt a bit possessive of a friendship or relationship? What did you learn from that experience?
- Are you more of a “less is more” or “the more the merrier” person when it comes to social gatherings?
- Share a time when you saw a community or group expand and welcome new people. How did it impact you?

Pray Together

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing us together today. Open our hearts to see your vision for your church—a place where everyone is welcome to find and follow Jesus. Help us embrace a “more the merrier” mindset as we reach out to others. Lead our discussion, give us wisdom, and guide us to invite others into your family. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Connect with God:

Key Bible Verses

- *Acts 15:8-9 (NIV): “God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.”*
- *Acts 15:19 (NIV): “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.”*

Message Summary

Pastor Mark used a childhood story about feeling possessive over friendships to introduce this week's message on God's vision for the church. Sometimes, we can feel hesitant about "too many" people joining in, but God's blueprint is for his church to welcome everyone. In Acts 15, early church leaders debated whether new believers should have to follow old traditions to belong. Peter and Paul reminded everyone that faith alone brings us to God. We're all invited to play a part in reaching more people and making it easier for others to come to know Jesus.

Sticky statement

God wants his church to keep going and growing.

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Mark shared about feeling possessive of friendships as a child. Have you ever felt hesitant about a new person joining a group you're a part of? Why do you think that is?
2. In Acts 15, church leaders disagreed about making non-Jewish believers follow Jewish traditions. What stands out to you about the early church's decision to include everyone without extra requirements?
3. God's blueprint is for his church to keep expanding and welcoming people. What's one way we can create a more inclusive environment for others in our own church?
4. When Peter and Paul emphasized that God "knows people's hearts," they argued that He decides who's in, not us. How can this reminder help us look beyond our preferences and invite others to church?
5. Pastor Mark challenged us to think of the church as "the more the merrier." Are there ways you can be more intentional about inviting people to church, especially during the upcoming *At The Movies* series?
6. How does understanding that "God wants his church to keep going and growing" change the way you view church, faith, and inviting others?

