



STORM the Gates

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WK 1: The Household of God

SERIES OVERVIEW

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised to build his church and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. (Matt 16:18) The imagery implies that hell is in a defensive posture against the advances of the church. The goal of the series is to give us a proper understanding of the offensive nature of the church in the world. We'll look at some of the most common metaphors in the NT used to describe the church and learn what each means about how to storm the gates of hell victoriously.

CONTEXT Ephesians 2:11-22 emphasizes the unity that Christ brings by breaking down the barriers between Jews and Gentiles, making both groups one through His sacrifice. It underscores the peace and reconciliation found in Jesus, who is our cornerstone, creating one new humanity and making us all members of God's household.

THE BIG IDEA The church is a family. To storm the gates of hell we must do so as a united front.



Info & Registration [HERE](#)

Available Dates: Aug. 28/29, Sept. 11/12,
Oct. 23/24, Nov. 6/7

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands- 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

ICE BREAKER

Share a time when you experienced a high level of unity on a team (at work, school or growing up) and what made the team so unified?



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GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Matthew 16:13-18 as a group. How do you personally answer the most important question in this text and maybe the entire Bible, "Who do you say I am?"

In the sermon, what did we learn about the gates of hell in Matt. 16:18 and how does it fuel our year of *Advance* as a church?

Read Ephesians 2:11-22 as a group.

In reference to verses 11-13, Pastor James asked us to close our eyes and look back at your life before Jesus saved you. What thoughts or visions came to your mind? How has your mindset, relationships, attitude, life and eternal destiny changed since Jesus rescued you? Celebrate as a group.

How do you become a son or daughter in the family of God? (vs 13) How does John 14:6 relate to verse 13?

Paul is talking about God creating a new family in verses 13-18. Discuss this quote and the importance of God's church and his new family.

"The church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God. It is not a divine afterthought. It is not an accident of history. On the contrary, the church is God's new community For his purpose, conceived in a past eternity, being worked out in history, and to be perfected in a future eternity, is not just to save isolated individuals and so perpetuate loneliness, but rather to build his church, that is, to call out of the world a people for his own glory. – John Stott

Discussion continued:

Read Ephesians 4:1-6. According to Paul in these verses, in order to act like family and storm the gates of hell **we** must be humble, be gentle, be patient, and bear with one another. Do you see evidence of our unity in these areas as a church? Which of these 4 attributes do you and our church as a whole need to work on the most?

What are things that people think will get them in the family of God but fall short? (Parents, be a good person, etc.)

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.

Closing Prayer.(come back together as a group)

God, we humble ourselves and confess we need you to live a life that demonstrates and proclaims your Gospel and glory. Holy Spirit, bring unity to our group and our church so that in humility we bring glory to you. God may it start in us and in our family. In all our words, actions and thoughts, may we honor you God. Thank you Jesus, amen!
