



fellowship church

Sermon Discussion Guide

March 22, 2026 - Scott Allen- *The Church that Jesus is Building*

Summary

Jesus is building His church. He is the architect who holds the blueprints, and so we should aim to be faithful to His design lest we drift away from His plans and purposes for it. In this passage, we see three essential aspects of His church:

1. It is founded on Him
2. It is dependent on His grace
3. It is mobilized for His mission

In order to avoid the drift and remain faithful to His design, we must continually:

1. Commit (and recommit) ourselves to the Builder
2. Depend (and redepend) on His grace
3. Mobilize (and remobilize) for His mission

Main takeaway: *The church that Jesus is building is founded on Him, dependent on His grace, and is mobilized for His mission.*

Discussion Starter

- Tell about a time where you underestimated or misunderstood who someone was. How did you find out who they really were?
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Reflection Questions

- Why is the setting Caesarea Philippi significant in this passage?
 - How does society portray and understand Jesus? How does this understanding fall short?
 - Why is it important that Jesus is the one who builds the church?
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Application Questions

- Vision Question: *We are a family of disciples on mission.* The gates of Fellowship Church are not closed. How can we as the body of Christ be regularly encouraging one another to take tangible steps of faith to pray for and invite new people in, whether they know Jesus or not?
- (Personal) One of Scott's main points is that the church is mobilized for God's mission. What barriers have inhibited you from carrying out God's mission in the past? What Scriptures can help you as you strive for greater obedience today?
- (Missional) Jesus used imagery of "keys of the kingdom of heaven," communicating access and authority. What access and authority have we received through Jesus? How do these gifts help us to share the gospel?

This week's guide written by: Lauren and Joel Purvis

Tips for Group Leaders

- DO ask open-ended questions. DON'T ask questions where a short "right" answer ends the discussion.
- DO encourage mutual participation by every group member. DON'T feel the need to respond or weigh in after every contribution. Avoid monologuing. As the leader, your goal is to facilitate mutual discussion between all group members (Eph 4:15–16).
- DO ask follow-up questions: "What do you mean by that?" "Tell me more!" "Has anyone else experienced something similar (or different)?"
- DO feel free to pick and choose questions that are a good fit for your group. DON'T feel the need to get through every question, and don't worry if you spend most of your time on a few questions that generate a lot of good discussion.
- DO keep the main thing the main thing. Steer your conversation toward the main theme of the sermon and the biblical text. DON'T get sidetracked on less important matters, theological debates, etc. A rabbit trail might sometimes be worth pursuing—if group members are wrestling deeply with the implications of biblical truth for their lives. Otherwise, steer conversation back to the main topic.
- DO get into the text. It could be helpful to read over the passage together or ask questions directly related to the text. Help group members engage the text for themselves and respond to what they see there.
- DO revisit important moments from the sermon—a memorable story, an impactful quote, a convicting point of application. "Remember when pastor X talked about Y? What impression did that make on you?"
- DO allow space for reflection, silence, and thoughtful answers. DON'T feel that you need to jump in or ask a new question just because the group has been quiet for a few seconds. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the silence gets awkward, then count silently to ten before jumping in.
- DO bring discussions home to practical, concrete everyday life. DON'T let discussion and application stay in the abstract realm. Steer discussion toward *what does responding to this sermon look like for me?* If comments are vague or general, ask "what would that look like, practically?"