

This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Imagine that your Community Group is the Core Group of a brand new church plant. As a group, brainstorm a church “mission statement” (a short sentence that defines why you exist) and four or five core values (key principles and priorities) that will guide your decisions and actions as a church.

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week’s passage together. In his message, Pastor Pat taught us that a Christ-honoring church is visibly shaped by the gospel, devoted to one another, dependent on the Spirit, and committed to the glory of Jesus.

The Christ-Honoring Church...**1. Regularly sees people come to Jesus. (Acts 2:47)**

- *A healthy church should expect the gospel to keep reaching people and bringing them to faith.*
 - Where have you recently seen God use an “ordinary” Christian to introduce someone to Christ?

2. Regularly sees people identifying with Jesus in baptism. (Acts 2:41)

- *Baptism is a public declaration that someone belongs to Jesus and is identifying with His people.*
 - Why is baptism such an important step of obedience for a follower of Christ?

3. Regularly worships around the Word, the ordinances, and the people of God. (Acts 2:42, 46)

- *The early church was deeply devoted to living and learning together.*
 - What is the difference between merely attending church and being devoted to the life of the church?

4. Generally conveys a spirit of awe from seeing miraculously changed lives. (Acts 2:43)

- *When God changes lives, His people should respond with wonder, gratitude, and worship.*
 - What are some miraculous things God is doing right now that you might have become numb to?

5. Regularly seeks to meet the needs of one another. (Acts 2:44–45; John 13:35)

- *Biblical community moves beyond friendliness and toward sacrificial care for one another.*
 - What needs do you see in our group, our church, or our community that we could help meet?

6. Is known for its joy, generosity, and praise to God. (Acts 2:46–47)

- *A Christ-honoring church is marked by people who gladly share, worship, and rejoice together.*
 - Which of these qualities—joy, generosity, praise—comes most naturally to you? Which is hardest?

7. Makes clear that the glory of changed lives belongs to Jesus. (Acts 3:12, 16)

- *When God works through His people, the credit always belongs to Christ.*
 - How can we build a habit of redirecting attention toward Jesus when God uses us?

8. Knows that its power comes through the filling of the Holy Spirit, fasting, and prayer. (Acts 4:13, 31)

- *The church’s power does not come from talent, strategy, or personality, but from dependence on God.*
 - What would greater dependence on the Holy Spirit look like in your life this week?

9. Practices church discipline with unrepentant sinners. (Acts 5:13–14)

- *A Christ-honoring church takes both grace and holiness seriously, even when correction is difficult.*
 - Why do churches sometimes avoid confronting ongoing, unrepentant sin?

10. Raises up godly leaders from within the church. (Acts 6:2–4)

- *Healthy churches don’t just attract leaders; they develop faithful people who can serve others.*
 - Who is currently encouraging, discipling, or preparing you to serve others?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that God would make these ten realities increasingly visible in our church, and that Jesus would receive the glory for everything He does through His people.



Creed: A Short Confession of Core Truths

A Creed is a concise confession of the essential truths of the Christian faith that unite believers of all ages across time and place. Rooted in Scripture and echoed in historic confessions of faith, creeds remind us that we are not inventing truth, but receiving it.

We believe in One God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -
three Persons, equal and eternal.

We believe in God the Father, Who Created Everything from Nothing.

He rules with wisdom, power, and love.
He is holy, just, merciful, and kind.
He gives life and every good gift.
He is in control of every nation and every moment.
Everything exists by His will and for His glory.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Sinless Savior.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary,
fully God and fully human.
He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.
He ascended to heaven and will return in glory
to judge all people - the living and the dead -
and to reign forever.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Person of God in us.

He convicts us of sin, opening our eyes to our need for grace,
and leading us to repentance.
He conforms us to Christ, helping us live like He did,
and giving us gifts to build up the Church.
He comforts us until the end, sealing our salvation,
and strengthening our hope.

We Believe:

- The Bible is God's Word and our final authority.
- Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ.
- The Church is the body of Christ.
- Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper are commands from Christ.
- Those who reject Christ face eternal judgment apart from God.
- Those who receive Christ experience eternal joy with God.