

CHURCH MATTERS



Part 1: Charting the Course

GET GOING

The mission of the church matters. It is a mission to seek and save the lost. Unfortunately the church isn't known for being a safe place for people who are far from God. That's not what Jesus had in mind when he established His church. He meant for the church to be a magnet for the unchurched, a place where they could find the way back to God.

DISCUSS

1. We all desire to be noticed and appreciated, not labeled and talked about. When was a time you were noticed and how did it make you feel?
2. Have you ever had a church experience where you felt rejected or unaccepted? How did that experience effect the way you view God?
3. Read Luke 19:1-9. Do you tend to view the church as inclusive or exclusive? Explain. What does the story of Zacchaeus tell us?
4. Jesus invited everyone to be a part of His movement, especially those who were far from God. Is this thought comforting or challenging to you?
5. We all feel a tension around certain groups of people who aren't like us. What kind of people are you tempted to keep outside the church? How did this week's message challenge your views on the mission of the church?
6. Why is it so easy for churches to drift away from their purpose and mission? Have you ever been part of a church that lost focus of its purpose? What was the outcome?
7. The mission of the church matters. Who is someone you know that needs to know that God accepts them and wants a relationship with them? How can this group help you reach out to that person?

WRAP IT UP

The church was never meant to be a club for insiders but a movement that invited everyone into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Don't be an insider, model Jesus' heart and reach out to those who are far from God (Luke 19:10).