

ἐκκλησία

called out | called together

Ekklesia Part 4 – The Invitation

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Families in Church—

- **In homes where the father never attends church:** less than %2 of the children in those homes will attend as grownups
- **7%** of saved children will help lead both of their parents to faith in Jesus Christ.
- **23%** of saved wives and mothers will help lead their husbands and children to faith in Jesus Christ.
- **94% of saved husbands and fathers** will help lead their entire family to faith in Jesus Christ.

Biblical Truths about the Church—

1. The Church belongs to Jesus and is unstoppable!

“...upon this rock I will build my church (ekklesia), and all the powers of hell will not conquer it”

Matthew 16:18

2. Jesus paid the ultimate price for the church

*“...Just as Christ loved the church (ekklesia) and **gave himself up for her**”*

Ephesians 5:25

3. The Church is designed to be beautiful, alive and the place where God can be found

*“Together, we are his house... We are carefully joined together in him, ... being built together to become **a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit**”*

Ephesians 2:20-22

4. The church is God’s “plan A” to bring the message of redemption to our broken planet

[2 Corinthians 5:18 & 20]

God has given us this task of reconciling people to him... And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

5. The church is the embodiment and foundation of truth

This is the church (ekklesia) of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth.

1 Timothy 3:15

We have a living faith, and the Holy Spirit will confirm the Truth to us.

[Revelation 19:5-9]

Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

*“Praise our God,
all you his servants,
you who fear him,
both great and small!”*

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

“Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

*Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!*

***For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.***

*Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear.”*

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

*Then the angel said to me, “Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!**” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”*

[Revelation 22:7]

“Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book.”

[Revelation 22:12]

“Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

[Revelation 22:20-21]

²⁰ He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon!”

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s holy people, Amen.

What Jesus would say regarding the Wedding—

“I am preparing for your arrival.”

[John 14:1-3, AMP]

*“Do not let your heart be troubled (afraid, cowardly). Believe [confidently] in God and trust in Him, [have faith, hold on to it, rely on it, keep going and] believe also in Me.² In My Father’s house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you, because **I am going there to prepare a place for you.**³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and I will take you to Myself, so that **where I am you may be also.***

Live with an anticipation for Jesus; Don’t just live for today but live for eternity with Him!

What Jesus would say regarding the Wedding—

“I can’t wait to see you.”

“The spirit and the Bride say come!”

Revelation 22:17

[2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-10]

Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.”

*But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. **And remember, our Lord’s patience gives people time to be saved.***

What Jesus would say regarding the Wedding—

“I’ll prepare you for the wedding.”

[Ephesians 5:25-27]

“...Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault”

What Jesus would say regarding the Wedding—

“Don’t forget to RSVP.”

No matter what level of brokenness you are in today, there is a seat at the Table prepared for you.

[Revelation 19:9]

“Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!”...These are the true words of God.”

TALK IT THROUGH

- 1. What is one invitation (past or present) that you passed up? What is one that you accepted? How did those practically impact you?**
- 2. Think back to weddings you have attended or in which you participated: How much preparation went into those? What did that personally require of you?**
- 3. What does it mean for you to be “The Bride” of Christ? How do we prepare for the Big Day, the marriage supper of the Lamb?**
- 4. Read Revelations 19:5-9 together. What is the “hope of the church?” Where do people around you place their hope?**
- 5. If God cannot wait to see us and if we desperately long to see Him, why is there a delay? What happens in the waiting?**
- 6. How does His faithfulness impact your response to God’s promises for the future?**
- 7. Why is it important to stay in the Word? Why is it important to do life together?**