

Disciples Church

Church Membership #1- Who We Are

Week of September 27, 2017 <> Joshua Kirstine

**Discussion Guide**

 **Why Covenant Membership:**

1. When reviewing the “Why Covenant Membership?” bullet points, what sticks out to you that reveals why the practice of covenant membership is needed and helpful in the local church today?
2. What happens to the effectiveness or unity of a church that decides not to take the time to agree to these things among its participating members?

**Our Story:**

1. What does it mean to you that God has preserved our church’s ministry for 128 years and that you get to be a part of the next chapter as we move into our newly built campus?

 Pray: Thank God for his perseverance of our church and its impact in our city for so many years.

 Pray that we would be good stewards of all that He has entrusted to us for the next season of gospel ministry.

**Our Leadership:**

Take a moment to pray for our elders and staff.

**Our Purpose:**

1. Why is a mission statement important for our church to identify?
2. Why is it important that every member of the congregation understands and commits to fulfilling the church’s mission statement?

**Glorify God:**

1. Why is it important that everything we do as a church is for the glory of God?
2. Instead of the glory of God being the most important thing to the local church, what are things churches can get distracted with?

**Lives Transformed:**

1. Do you see real evidence of lives bring transformed at Disciples Church? If so, share a specific and brief example.

**Enjoy God:**

1. When studying John 15, why is it critical that we, the branches, are deepening our roots into the vine and growing into Christ?
2. Give an example in your life of how you are enjoying God in a more central or focused way than you have before?
3. Why is our joy in God so important?

**Grow in Community:**

1. Why is it important that we grow in community which is God’s design? Identify the issues with lacking good community. What are ways that true biblical, gospel-centered community has helped you grow in Christ?
2. Which of the one another’s could you be better at practicing in community?

(Loving, encouraging, having patience with, honoring, serving, admonishing, forgiving, confessing to)

**Love Others:**

1. Do you see how our authentic love for others is the result of the fruit that the vine (Christ) grows in and through us? Talk about this.
2. How can Christians be guilty of not loving others and instead staying too focused on themselves only?

Close in prayer. Please pray that we would know and live out our mission statement.