

Lesson 66: Thursday, Jan. 5th, 2016

DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Q100. What is the *universal Church*?**

The universal Church is all the members of the body of Christ, made up of people from all around the world. It is all who are called out of darkness, regenerated, and set apart by God’s saving grace. It is all the genuine believers in Jesus.

1. What is the difference between the universal Church and the local church?
2. Take 5 min right now to pray for the church around the world. Share any news that you have heard about how the church around the world is suffering and pray for those things.
3. According to 1st Corinthians 12:25-27, why did we just pray for the church around the world? What else are we supposed to do?
4. Go around the group at your table and discuss different ways we can make sure that we are loving the universal Church? Be specific and enjoy the brainstorm session, it would be great to hear some of your thoughts!
5. Read Galatians 3:27-29. What is the significance of being heirs of Abraham according to the promise? Spend some time flushing out this passage. Have you ever misunderstood this verse? In what ways? What does it mean to neither Jew nor Greek? Etc…
6. Are there multiple ways that the universal Church is saved? We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus. Is that how people during Old Testament times were saved?
7. How do the truths of tonight’s lecture affect the way we do life with other ethnicities? Have you done this well or are there areas of your life where repentance is needed? Work through this as a group.
8. In light of the quote below, what are you doing or need to do to be a part of bringing the gospel to possible brothers and sisters around the world? Do you see a need to be proactive? Why or why not?

This is a quote from the Joshua project: “It is estimated that of the 7.1 billion people alive in the world today, 2.91 billion of them live in unreached people groups with little or no access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

1. Read 2 Peter 3:1-10. According to this passage, why has Jesus not returned yet? Why is this important for the universal Church?
2. In light of tonight’s lecture, what views about the universal Church do you need to change. What questions or confusion do you still have?