

(insert Church Name here)

Small Group Discussion Guide for Church Revitalization

(insert date here)

Session 1: Jesus' Church

Read Matthew 16:13-18.

Reflect:

- Why was it important for the disciples to know Jesus' full identity?
- To whom does the church belong?
- Who builds the church?
- How strong is the church that Jesus builds?
- In what ways do these words apply to our church today?
- What hope about FBCWR do you find in these verses?

Pray: In light of this passage, ask God to aid our church in becoming the church He desires to build.

Session 2: The Work of the Church

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

Reflect:

- What is the main goal Jesus has for the church?
(M_____ d_____.)
- Whose authority does the church have to make disciples? Why is this important?
- Among which people groups must the church make disciples?
- What two things (look for “-ing” words) does the church do with new disciples? Why is this important?

Pray: Talk to God about your desire to see our church become a Great Commission church.

Session 3: The First Church

Read Acts 2:40-47.

Reflect:

- What characteristics were noticeable in the first church?
- Why do you think these disciples were awe-struck? When has our church worshipped in an awe-struck fashion?
- How were these first disciples different after deciding to follow Jesus?
- What role do you think these actions played in the first church: discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, ministry, and worship?
- What was the result of their complete devotion to God?

Pray: Ask God to show our church how we can deepen our discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, ministry, and worship.

Session 4: The First Church in Prayer

Read Acts 4:23-37

Reflect:

- After the first resistance against the church, how did these disciples pray? What did they pray for?
- How did God answer their prayer?
- Why was being filled with the Holy Spirit necessary?
- What is the relationship between “great power” and “great grace” in v. 33? What might great power and great grace look like today if we saw it in our congregation?

Pray: Ask God to show us great power and great grace as we seek to be His church in this community.

Session 5: Revitalization and Transformation

Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18.

Reflect:

- A revitalized church is a church of disciples seeking transformation in every area of life. What words in v. 18 show that this is a process?
- What action in v. 16 allows the unbeliever to understand the message of Christ?
- How are believers different from unbelievers?

Pray: Ask God to help you be transformed as the church seeks revitalization.

Session 6: Unity in the Church

Read Ephesians 4:1-7.

Reflect:

- How are transformed disciples to treat one another in a revitalized church?
- What words here emphasize the unity of the church?
- What role do the terms in v. 2 encourage unity in the church?
- How do the words like “one” and “all” help us understand the need for unity in the church?

Pray: Ask God to show you ways to promote unity in our church.

Session 7: The Multiplying Church

Read Acts 9:31.

Reflect:

- What does it mean to be “walking in the fear of the Lord”?
- What does it mean to be “walking . . . in the comfort of the Holy Spirit”?
- Why would these two actions result in the church being multiplied?
- In Acts 2:47, believers were being added to the church. Why is the church being multiplied even better than addition?

Pray: Ask God to make our church a multiplying church.

Session 8: An Examining Church

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5-14.

Reflect:

- Paul challenged the church at Corinth to examine themselves. What were they to look for? (v. 5)
- They were to test themselves to see if they were doing what was right. Why would a modern church examine itself?
- In verse 9, what did Paul pray for? How is restoration like revitalization?

Pray: As our church prepares for our Church Revitalization assessment, pray for our people to search their hearts and make an honest and heart-felt evaluation.