

## Life Group Discussion Questions

**Sermon Series:** Why Do We Do That?

**Sermon Title:** Join a Church

**Sermon Date:** 11-24-19

**Gospel Gain:** Church membership celebrates a commitment to a community of Christ followers.

### Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

- What are potential misconceptions about becoming a member of a church? What reasons might people give for NOT joining a local church and FOR joining a local church?

### Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

- In this study we will take time to look at the biblical reasons for becoming a member of a local church. Be inspired by how the early church rallied together around the common ground of their faith in Jesus Christ.

#### Read: *Acts 2:38-47*

- Peter is preaching to the people about Jesus and the gospel message. How does Peter ask them to respond to what they have heard and what does that mean?
- What does v.41 tell us about their response? What would it look like if that happened in our context today? What needs and opportunities would we want to address with that many new believers?
- Acts 2:42-47 is a beautiful description of the early church in action. What do you see happening among the people in this passage? Which of these qualities is active in the local church today and what seems to be missing? What does v.47 highlight? Is there anything that the local church can do to pursue the addition of new believers on a regular basis?

#### Read: *1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

- According to this passage, what do the members of the “body of Christ” have in common and what are their differences? How do these differences and common traits make the body stronger?
- How can our tendency towards personal independence negatively impact the body of Christ?
- How can pursuing interdependence in the body of Christ benefit individuals in their walk of faith?

Discuss these values of Oakwood and why they might be important for our church...

**God-Honoring Worship** - Our triune God is the focus of our worship, the source of our power, and the One for whom we live. We are committed to excellence and to an intergenerational, contemporary worship experience. We believe that the worship of God by believers and biblically based messages that focus on life change can influence individuals to respond to the gospel, while also contributing to the spiritual growth of believers.

**Word-Driven Teaching** - We are committed to a strong teaching-preaching ministry, which recognizes the Bible as our authority for all of life. We believe that spiritual growth happens best through corporate worship and small group involvement where biblical instruction is applied to life and connected to prayer, community life, service, and outreach in dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

**Grace-Filled Community** - We are a church marked by grace, not legalism; a church which encourages reconciliation and healing in relationships; a church characterized by forgiveness, love, and acceptance; a church where people are encouraged to ask questions, admit fears, acknowledge temptations and talk about where life hurts.

**Gifts-Oriented Service** - We believe that every believer has been given gifts, talents and life experiences to contribute to the spiritual growth of the church. Therefore, we seek to develop all ministries based on people's spiritual gifts and desires for ministry. We seek to develop leaders based on people's abilities and callings, while also providing opportunities for people to develop their gifts and talents.

**Gospel-Centered Outreach** - We are called simultaneously to serve our neighbors and local communities, while also serving people from different cultures and countries in order to advance the gospel in people's lives. We seek to do this through a variety of local and global evangelistic efforts, by promoting social concern and justice, sending out ministry teams, and supporting organizations and career missionaries in keeping with the beliefs, vision, purposes and values of our church.

Discuss the content of our Oakwood Church covenant...

Having received Jesus Christ as our Savior and confessed Him as Lord in baptism, we do now joyfully covenant together to unite with the family of Christ here at Oakwood Community Church. We do, therefore, in His strength agree:

That by God's grace we shall seek to protect the unity of our Church by acting in love toward one another, engaging in edifying conversation, and following our leaders;

That we shall share in the responsibility of our Church by praying for its growth, welcoming those who visit, and pursuing Christ-like character;

That we shall seek to serve in the ministry of our Church by discovering our gifts, being equipped to serve, and developing a servant's heart;

That we shall seek to support the testimony of our Church by attending faithfully, living a godly life, and giving regularly;

That we shall seek to participate in the outreach of our Church by sharing the gospel, caring for others, and supporting the advance of God's kingdom here and abroad.

### **Getting Real with One Another (Accessibility)**

- What is one application point for you in this discussion on church membership?

### **Group Prayer Time (Supplication)**

- Share prayer requests with one another and take time to pray together. Pray that Oakwood Church would continue to develop a passion for God and compassion for people.