

groups.

— Notes | DATE: April 19, 2026

Church Unbranded: A Kingdom to Carry

We each have a memory of our first experiences at church. If you really think about it, you might even be able to remember a smell or song associated with those first years at church. Some of us grew up in the pews, others found church recently. Perhaps you remember watching your parents worship and being impacted by that, or you remember the grandma that always had candy, or maybe you were unfortunately impacted by a negative experience. You could have grown up going every week (whether you wanted to or not) or you could have just stepped through these doors!

Whether your experience is positive or negative, we are all part of the big C church as the covenant people of God. The hardest part of that? We are His people, but we are broken. As His people, it's our job to desire understanding who He is and let His truth and purpose drive our mission.

Key Scripture | Ephesians 4:4-6

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one **Spirit**, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Related Scriptures:

Ephesians 1:19-23; John 18:36; Luke 5: 30-31; 2 Timothy 4:2-4; Matthew 18:18-19

Icebreakers:

Q: What is a first impression memory you have from a church experience?

groups.

Key Thoughts and Reflections: _____

I. What do I really think about the church?

Q: When you hear the word “church” what is your honest gut level reaction?

Q: Have you ever found yourself viewing the church more like a product to consume or judge rather than a kingdom to carry? What does that look like in your life?

Q: If the church is imperfect because of its people, how does that change your expectation of the church?

II. The Kingdom of God is happening in real time.

Q: How would you define “the kingdom of God?”

Q: Scripture tells us that the kingdom of God is happening now. Have you been impacted by that in your life?

Q: Does anything hold you back from living like Gods kingdom is present every day?

III. We are called to be united under a King and not our preferences.

Q: What area of your life is God calling you to align more with His Kingdom?

Q: What category do you most identify with: Critic, Cynic, Curious, Consumer, or Carrier? What has led you to that place?

Q: Do you view the truth in the Gospel as optional or essential?

Get Practical _____

We aren't called to just talk about the church but to be the church. So many times, we can complicate what that looks like. Let's take time this week to pray and reflect about two things: First, what is one specific step you can take to move from consuming to carrying? Second, who can you encourage, serve or invest in this week? If you still feel stuck or have questions, reach out to your small group leader or pastor and get a connect time on your calendar!