



## THE CHURCH

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor  
October 20, 2013

### INTRODUCTION – MATTHEW 16:15-18

#### • Foundational Faith Profession

- ▶ Jesus is the Messiah predicted in the Old Testament
- ▶ Jesus is the divine Son of God

### TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CHURCH

#### ❶ Foundation – Faith in Jesus as Messiah & Son of God

#### ❷ Focal Point – Jesus

#### ❸ Activity – Building Process

#### ❹ Name of New Entity – Church

- ἐκκλησία / ek-klesia = the called out ones
- Hebrews 10:24-25

#### ❺ Ownership – The Church Belongs to Jesus

#### ❻ Mission Promise

- ▶ NOTE: Gates are defensive which means the posture of the Church

is offense, not defense. (cf. Revelation 1:18)

CORE BELIEF - We believe the Church is Jesus' mission-focused community, completing His work on earth.

CORE VALUE - Therefore we, as a community of Christ-followers, will actively join Him in building His Kingdom.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE - Mobilization in Mission + Regular Giving

Matthew 16:18 - *I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

- I pledge to honor the Lord through increased generosity to His church.
- I am becoming a follower of Jesus today!



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**Lesson Aim:** To dig deeper in our understanding that the Church is Jesus' mission-focused community, completing His work on earth so that we can climb higher in our ability to actively join Him in building His Kingdom.

**Prayer:** Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your study time and/or discussion.

**Icebreaker:** Why did you or your family decide to become a part of The Bridge?

1. **READ Matthew 16:13-20.** In what region did the events of these verses take place? What broad, impersonal question did Jesus ask His disciples? What different answers did Jesus get to His question?
2. What pointed personal question did Jesus ask His followers? Who spoke up and what answer did he give?
3. Why was Peter "blessed"? In what way is coming to faith and understanding the Gospel a supernatural event?
4. What did Jesus promise about the church?

5. In the teaching this weekend, Pastor Scott talked about the church being a mission-focused community that actively joins Jesus in building His Kingdom here on earth. **READ Acts 2:42-47.** What did people of the Early Church devote themselves to help make this happen?
6. What are some ways we continue to do this today?
7. What examples of this would a new person be able to spot at The Bridge? (in on-campus or off-campus life)
8. **READ Romans 15:4.** What does this verse tell us can happen as we hear, read and study the Scriptures?
9. What are some ways that work to hinder God's work through the Church today? Why should this not discourage us?
10. Christ builds His Church, but each one of us is gifted and called to play a role in the local church. Discuss with your group ways you can participate (as individuals and as a group) with Christ in "building His Church in Fresno County."

**Close in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads you.**

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at [theBridgeFresno.com](http://theBridgeFresno.com) by clicking on the "Messages" link.