

Small Group Discussion State of the Church

Opening Discussion

1. Begin by sharing testimonies of your faith journey.
2. In what way has LBC helped in the process of presenting you complete in Christ?
3. What have you been actively doing to help present others complete in Christ?
4. Has anyone had a “life and death” experience? If so, what really mattered in those moments of uncertainty? What did that experience teach you about what should really matter in life?

Bible Study

1. What was the mission of Jesus, and what is the purpose of the Church according to the following texts? Put it in your own words.

Matthew 28:16-20

Luke 15

Mark 2:15-17

Acts 1:8

Col. 1:28,29

2. What does it mean to live for that purpose? How does this look on a daily basis? How does this affect our view of our time, talents, and finances?
3. Read 2 Tim. 4:6-8. If you were to die today, could you say with Paul, “I have finished the course; I have kept the faith”? Why or why not?
4. Read through the “For This Purpose I Live” folder and discuss how these steps of faith relate to the purpose of the church. Is this really what God wants us to be about? Are these faith steps in keeping with Christ’s purpose for His Church? Why or why not?

Application

1. In this past year, how did you invest your time, talents and finances? What did you really live for? If Christ were to return today, could you say to Him that you were sold out for His Church and His Purpose?
2. What do you want 2004 to be about? What are you going to live for this year? What does that mean for you practically in relation to time, talents and money?
3. Spend considerable time in prayer for the next steps of faith for LBC. Pray that if this is God’s will it will be evident by the response of the body through the 3-year pledges. Pray for one another that we will all be able to say, “For this purpose I live.”