

## Conversation Starters

- How long have you been at Meck, and what role has it played in your life?

## Discuss

*“I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out...” (Matthew 16:18, Msg).*

- In the simplest terms, what is the Church?
- How has your view of the Church evolved over the years?
- What should be the mission of the Church?

Jesus presented a clear and challenging mission for the Church to fulfill:

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20, NIV).*

Meck’s mission is to help spiritual explorers become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

- What does it look like to be a fully devoted follower of Christ?
- Is it possible to be half-hearted or lukewarm and truly be a follower of Christ?

Jesus said, “make disciples...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Discipleship can only occur within the context of community. These relationships must be cultivated with intention and purpose.

- What should discipleship look like, and where should you look to find examples to learn from?
- What kind of relationships should you be seeking out and building?
- How could your pride or insecurity stand in the way of developing the relationships you need to grow?

The mission of the Church, given by Jesus himself, is not directed solely at pastors and missionaries. It is meant for every follower of Christ. If you are in Christ, and He is in you, then you are a member of the body of Christ, the Church. This means you have a purpose and mission to fulfill for the cause of Christ.

*“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying,*

*then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully” (Romans 12:4-8, NIV).*

- How are you fulfilling the mission and purpose that Christ has called you to?
- Do you know what your gifts and talents are? If so, are you using them to serve?

Some people have very specific calls placed upon their hearts by God. Where do you feel called to serve? If you are not sure, reflect on what matters to you, figure out what your gifts are, and most importantly, pray for direction. To help you discover your gifts, you can take this quick test at <https://mecklenburg.org/serve/>.

There is a war waging for the souls of man, a war with consequences of eternal significance. The Church is the chosen force for Christ on earth, his very hands and feet, and the only hope for the least and the lost. Every member of the body of Christ is called to play their part in battle. There is no room on the sidelines.

## **Next Steps**

- Are you all in for the cause of Christ? If not, what is holding you back?
- How can you personally reach out to the least and the lost to share the hope of Christ?
- How can you use your gifts to serve within the church?
- Do you have people in your life that will foster your spiritual growth?
- If not, what steps will you take this week to remedy that?

## **Pray**

Father, please guide us and bless our efforts as we seek to share the hope of Christ with the least and the lost. Help us to build a community so winsome and compelling that the light of Christ will shine for all the world to see.