

- 1. When the Bible talks about "the church", who is it talking about? How is that different from what most people think of when they talk about "the church"?

 Answer According to the Bible, the church is all of the people, from the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 until the day that Jesus comes back, who put there trust in Jesus as their Savior. Most people think of the church as either a building at a certain place or one of the denominations that exist, like Catholic or Baptist.
- 2. At Grace Church, our motto is "Love No Matter What". What does that mean to you? Do you agree with this sentiment when applied to the church? Why or why not? If you had to come up with a motto for what the church should be, what would it be?
- 3. Do you know someone, like in the story of Ruth and Boaz, that is going through a rough, complicated time in their life? Without divulging their identity, share what the situation is. As a group, brainstorm what actions you could take either as a group or as an individual to help them. If they are not a believer, that is always the starting point, so what could you do as a group to reach them with the gospel?
- 4. Read Psalm 51:1-10. David freely told everyone about his struggle with sin in this song that he wrote. One of the main functions of our small groups ministry is to provide a safe place where we can share our struggles with others who can pray for us and give us encouragement. What can we do at our group to provide an atmosphere where people feel free to share the good, the bad, and the ugly about their lives? What would make you feel free to be honest about your struggles?
- 5. Pastor Paul said in his message that at Grace Church we believe that God's way still works and that as Christians we need to be an example of God's way in a culture that is steadily abandoning God's ways and steadily going downhill. What are some ways that we can do this?