



### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### WEEK 1

1. What do most people think of when they hear the word “church” in America? How is that different from what the Bible says church is? What did you think of the church as you grew up?
2. What are the eight realities about the church that Pastor Rick shared? Which one stands out in your mind? Why?
  - a. You are part of God’s family on earth.
  - b. You are part of the church God created the universe for.
  - c. You work with the church to fulfill God’s eternal purposes.
  - d. You and the church are the reason Jesus died on the cross.
  - e. You are part of the only organism that is going to last forever.
  - f. You are a member of the only group Jesus said is unstoppable.
  - g. You are part of the only group big enough to solve global problems.
  - h. You received the greatest privilege in life, which is to be part of God’s global church.
3. Pastor Rick said that our church is “purpose driven”. What did he mean by this? What are some of the things that “drive” people to do or accomplish things in their lives?

#### **Answers for leader –**

To be purpose driven means that there are clearly defined reasons (purposes) for what you do and everything you do is geared toward accomplishing those purposes. There are many things that drive people to do what they do: money, family, love, prestige, fame, etc. A person with no purpose in life will just drift through life and never accomplish very much or worse yet, kill themselves because they see no reason to live. Some of the wrong purposes that churches have for what they do are traditions, personalities, finances, programs, meetings, buildings, events.



4. Do you think it is important for people to have a purpose in life? What happens to a person who has no purpose for what they do? What do you think happens to a church when it has no purpose, or worse yet, the wrong purpose for what it does? What are some of the wrong purposes that some churches have for what they do?

**Answers for leader -**

A person with no purpose in life will just drift through life and never accomplish very much or worse yet, kill themselves because they see no reason to live. A church with the wrong purpose will never accomplish God's will in this world and neither will the people who are part of that church. Some of the wrong purposes that churches have for what they do are traditions, personalities, finances, programs, meetings, buildings, events.

5. What are the five benefits of being connected to a church? As you list each one, ask the members of your group if coming to Grace has helped them in that area and to share how it has helped them.

- a. It helps me focus on God
- b. It helps me face life's problems.
- c. It helps me fortify (strengthen) my faith.
- d. It helps me find a place in life where I can make a difference.
- e. It helps me fulfill my life's mission.