



Week 1 Group Guide | Message by Eric Parks

Start

To get things started, let's go around the circle and answer this question:

**When you were a kid, can you remember what you hoped to become when you got older?
Do you remember why you wanted to become that?**

Share

Welcome to our brand new series "Home."

Driving by almost any neighborhood, we see rows and rows of houses. A house is what we see from the outside, but it's what happens on the inside that makes it a home. Not every house is a home. The people who inhabit it define a home. It is about the family life inside that makes it feel like home.

God's church is not a building; it is the people of God that make up the church. A membership class will not make someone a member. A member is someone who has a relationship with Jesus Christ and is fully engaged in the life God has called them to alongside other believers. It is a family to be a part of, not something we sign up for. Just like any family, we enjoy each other's friendship, encourage one another, argue at times, sit at the table, and apologize and find ways to help serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.

At Red Rocks Church we believe in the family of God. All of us have a place at the table thanks to what Jesus Christ has done for us. We don't build the church; God builds the church and calls us to play a part using our God-given abilities, resources and time to run the one and only race that matters. We get to do Kingdom work and invite others to join the family that they have always been longing for.

This week, we are going to talk about one of the hallmarks of Jesus and what the Kingdom looks like. That hallmark is serving. When we are a part of the family, we serve. We don't serve out of guilt or to earn anything, but to do what we see Jesus do throughout the gospels. Jesus made it plain that he came to serve and not to be served. It is in God's very nature to serve, give, and love; it is who He is. In the same way, as followers of Jesus and image bearers, we are designed to serve others. For us to spiritually flourish and thrive, we need to serve.

Let's read Mark 10:37-45

James and John were close friends with Jesus and made a special request that when Jesus becomes a political ruler, they can have seats of honor. They thought Jesus might help them get what they want. James and John wanted to be served, known, and wanted to have some glory.

Why do you think the human heart is bent toward wanting to be served instead of serving others?

In essence, James and John wanted to use Jesus to get better positions in life, do you think this can be a struggle for followers of Jesus at times? If so, why?

Grow

The thrill of ministry is not reserved for the pastor. So many times, we sit in a service and hear incredible stories that the teaching pastor experienced or amazing work being done overseas and we leave inspired, but not changed. It is easy to assume that all those amazing stories are reserved for the paid staff of a church. Not true.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9

We are a chosen people, together; we declare the praises of God. In the ESV translation, it says, "proclaim the excellencies." We show the world around us the excellent qualities of God and how we interact with each other. Each of us is a part of the priesthood and how we love, serve, give, pray, and do life together helps people see how good God is. God never intended just one hired pastor to do the work of the entire body of believers. If that is happening, then that is one unhealthy body on the brink of collapse. We are family.

The church was designed to be a family, a home where each member thrives and plays a part in the family. It is tragic that there are those who have made a decision to follow Christ, yet have not yet realized the family of God all around them. Not only are they missing out, but also others are being robbed the opportunity to know them and to serve alongside them.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-6, 1 Corinthians 12:12-15, and 1 Peter 4:10

Have you ever thought of the body of Christ like a physical body? Why is this a good analogy when it comes to different parts and different gifts in the church?

Is there a gift you know you don't have, but wish you did? (*i.e., worship leader, teacher, leadership, etc.*)

Move

When it comes to serving, there are no small roles. Jesus demonstrated this to his disciples by purposefully taking the worst role possible, getting on the floor and washing the feet of his friends. God stoops down to wash feet? Yet, this is the nature of God.

Eric mentioned in this week's message that there is no such thing as a small player in God's Kingdom. There is not an A team and a B team. Every one of us is important. We are one body, one faith, and one team. Whether we are more visible and we stand on a stage or lead a life

group in a home or if we are less visible at times and use our abilities to make coffee, direct traffic or pray for little babies we are holding on a Sunday. Regardless of who is more or less visible, let's remember this: You are visible to God. He knows you and sees your service, understands the cost of your giving and the time you invest into the Kingdom work. If you haven't had a chance to join a team and serve someone, the best thing you can do is to just jump in and taste and see that the Lord is good!

Let's end by reading Philippians 2:3-4

What is an example of doing something with empty conceit?

How can we humble ourselves this week and treat someone as more important than ourselves?

Are you actively able to serve somewhere in your local church? Is there a place you can get outside of your own interests and look out for the interest of others?

Pray

As a group, spend some time praying for each other, especially for the struggles that people might be facing today. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

To Go

Psalm 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good ...