

REDROCKS

[red•räks]

noun

1 Defining who we are.

2 Authenticity, Humility,
Unity, and Generosity.

WEEK 1 • GROUP GUIDE • MESSAGE BY SHAWN JOHNSON

START

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

If you had to describe yourself with one adjective, what would it be and why? *(For those who disliked English class, adjectives are “describing words,” such as brave, passionate, adventurous, friendly etc.)*

SHARE

Welcome to our teaching Series called “Red Rocks.”

What is Red Rocks Church? What does God say a church should be doing? Do we look like the type of church Jesus spoke about? If you are new to following God, how do you know the church you are a part of is a healthy church? During this series, we are going to explore what God says about our purpose and this beautifully-messy community of people that make up the church.

Jesus spoke a bold truth to his disciples that only later would they come to truly understand. In Matthew Jesus said, “...I **will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Jesus is the one who is building the church, he is at the head and we all play a part in the functioning body of Christ. The church is not a building, but a body of believers that are designed to move gracefully together, reaching out to those far from God while at the same time encouraging and building up one another in the process. This church Jesus spoke of is an unstoppable force that moves outward in a powerful way, so much so that not even “the gates of Hades” can overcome it. The church is the hope of the world, a shining city on the hill and we are not to be afraid or ashamed of the truth.

The church is to be marked by authenticity, humility, unity and generosity. By this those far from God will see a light in the darkness, a place where the prodigal can call home.

When you think of “church” what first comes to mind? How do you think your past experi-



ences whether good or bad contribute to how you view the church?

Do you think it is easier or more difficult to be yourself around church people? Do you think that is how God intended things to be?

What gets in the way of authenticity?

GROW

In this week's message, Shawn talked about a father who had two sons. Both of the sons received an inheritance early in life, both choose to do different things with inheritance and both had issues to deal with. This week, we are going to look at the younger son, who wanted nothing to do with his Dad and wanted to live life on his own terms.

Let's read Luke 15:11-24

How do you think the younger son was feeling walking home?

What do you think the son was looking for in a place to come home to?

In Spence-Jones, St. Luke Commentary states:

But although many who wander never escape from that sad country, it is not because they would be unwelcomed should they choose to return. The whole imagery of this part of the parable tells us how gladly the eternal Father welcomes the sorrowful penitent. The father does not wait for the poor wanderer, but, as though he had been watching for him, sights him afar off, and at once takes compassion, and even hastens to meet him, and all is forgiven.

After all the humiliation that father must have endured in his town, he ran out in front of everyone to meet his son, what does this say to you about the heart of God?

What does this story tell you about how the church should think about prodigals?

MOVE

At Red Rocks Church, we say, we exist to make Heaven more crowded. We want to be a place for the prodigal. As the Holy Spirit draws people to this place, we want to be the kind of place those far from God can call home. This week's message talked about some of the desperate needs of prodigals. We talked about how prodigals need:

- To be accepted
- Truth and honesty
- To know the Father isn't mad at him
- To know real life change is possible



Which of these do you need most in a church?

Which of these do you think your friends who may not know God need to know most?

What is the one thing God might have spoke to you about in this group?

PRAY

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

TO GO

Jesus said that if we are to follow him, there is something that He has planned for us to do. Let's remember this verse, because it is easy for all of us to forget sometimes:

Matthew 4:19

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

