Ekklesia, Part 3 - Group Discussion Guide

Observation questions

1. Have someone read Matthew 16:18. What does the Greek word ekklesia mean, and how does Jesus redefine its purpose here?
2. What are the "three little nots" that signal openness in conversations? [58:27]
3. Have someone read Hebrews 10:24-25. How does this passage connect the act of gathering with encouraging others?
4. What practical examples were given for creating environments where guests feel "loved and safe" in the church? [01:05:24]

Interpretation questions

1. Why does the writer of Hebrews emphasize "not neglecting to meet together" as essential for encouraging love and good works? How might isolation weaken this mission?
2. Jesus says the church will prevail against the "gates of Hades." What does this imply about the church's role in confronting brokenness or darkness in the world? [42:18]
3. Rich described believers as "living temples where the Spirit dwells." How does this identity shape the way we should interact with our neighborhoods and workplaces?
4. Why might persistent prayer "change the pray-er" as much as circumstances, according to the sermon? [56:51]

Application questions

1. How could you intentionally look for the "three little nots" (not-from-here, life struggle, spiritual curiosity) in conversations this week? What would it look like to respond with an invitation instead of pressure? [58:27]
2. The challenge to "serve two Sundays this summer" is meant to create low-pressure opportunities. Which area of service (kids, guests, etc.) feels most aligned with your gifts, and what hesitations might you need to surrender to try it? [01:04:04]
3. Financial stewardship was framed as a way to "amplify impact across generations." How could creating a giving plan deepen your trust in God’s provision and clarify your priorities? [01:06:44]
4. When have you experienced or witnessed "church hurt"? How might committing to pray for specific people in your church community foster healing or renewed hope? [54:53]
5. Attenders were called to "host, not coast." What is one tangible way you could shift from passive attendance to actively welcoming newcomers this month (e.g., sitting in a different section, initiating a post-service conversation)? [01:02:33]
6. If the church’s success is measured by "lives changed, not attendance metrics," how would this shift your focus in relationships with neighbors or coworkers?