

THE FUNDAMENTAL LIST

RECOVERING THE ESSENTIALS OF OUR FAITH

Upstream – Community Group Discussion Guide

Key Scripture: Matthew 16:15–18, 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27, Hebrews 10:23–25

Opening Thought

We live in a world that constantly reacts to crises downstream—after the damage is done. But the Church, at its best, goes upstream. It addresses the deeper needs of the heart, the habits, and the hurts before they reach a breaking point. Jesus invites us to be part of something that not only changes lives—but changes culture.

1. Getting Started

What's one thing you've seen "upstream" in your own life—something you caught or corrected early that made a big difference?

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase: "The Church is essential"?

2. Read Scripture Together

Take turns reading the following aloud:

- Matthew 16:15–18
- 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27
- Hebrews 10:23–25

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you in these passages?
- What does it mean for Jesus to build His church on the rock of Peter's declaration?
- Why do you think Paul compares the Church to a body?
- According to Hebrews, why is it so important to keep gathering?

3. The Problem and the Hope

Why do you think so many people today feel isolated or without purpose?

How has COVID, cultural shifts, or personal experiences impacted your view of church?

The sermon said: "God gave us an imperfect community now and invites us to a perfect community in eternity." What does that stir up in you?

4. Going Upstream Together

In what areas of your life are you “downstream”—putting out fires—instead of heading upstream to address the root issues?

Where might God be inviting you to step into someone else’s life as an upstream presence?

5. ENGAGE: Next Steps

As a group, review the five ways we ENGAGE at Access Church:

- Pray – For the church, its leaders, and those yet to come.
- Connect – Join a group or be intentional in relationships.
- Give – Fuel the mission.
- Serve – Use your gifts.
- Invite – Bring someone along.

Questions:

- Which of these five comes most naturally for you?
- Which one might be your next step?
- How can this group encourage you in taking that step?

Closing Prayer

Invite a group member to thank God for building His Church, for the gift of community, and for courage to ENGAGE together.