

“All In”

Week 7 – The Faithful Church

warm-up

Group Ice Breaker: QUALIFICATIONS

Put a yummy dessert in a room and lock the door. Make a secret list of qualifications that people must meet to open the door and receive the “reward”. Invite everyone into the room to see the dessert, then lock everyone out. Systematically announce the qualifications they must meet in order to have some dessert. Start with broad qualifications, narrowing the focus until nobody meets the standard. Discuss how this felt.

word & application

Revelation 3:8-12

*“I know all the things you do, and **I have opened a door for you that no one can close**. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me...**Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world**. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. **All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name.**”*

John 10:6-10

*“Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn’t understand what he meant, so he explained it to them: **“I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep**. All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. Yes, I am the gate. **Those who come in through me will be saved (find safety)**. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. **My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.**”*

Discussion & Application: Explore these questions through in-depth conversation

I love passages that clearly reflect the character and compassion of Jesus Christ. I can remember a time before I truly knew Jesus, when I viewed Him more as a “gatekeeper” than the “gate”. It was only after I truly gained revelation about His desire to include each of us in His plan that I was drawn to Him.

- Rate your spiritual life on a scale of 1 – 10, with 1 being “I feel like I sometimes disqualify myself from Jesus’s plan”, and 10 being “I always feel 100% accepted by Jesus.”*
- What factors influence your answer to the above question?*
- Consider the effects of the next three statements in your life, if you could know them as truth:*
 - There is nothing I can do to make Jesus want to disqualify me from his presence and plan*
 - Jesus is constantly holding a door open for me, and it’s simply up to me to walk through it*
 - On the other side of the door, the only expectation is that Jesus wants to forever bless me*
- If these statements were truly your guiding truth, how would it affect your life? How would it affect the way you welcome and love others? What will you do now?*

prayer

Share recent “God moments”. Pray over requests. Pray that we can truly accept Jesus Christ’s unwavering desire to include each of us in his eternal plan. Pray that we can allow ourselves to become reliant on his protection and provision, denying the world’s influence of “earning rewards”. Pray that as we embrace revelation in this area, that this truth transforms our approach toward others – that they would feel this same inclusion in Jesus. Pray that this stirs us to acts of mercy toward others.