

November 15, 2009  
**Matthew 16:13-20**  
Pastor Jay Childs

THE  
**PRIORITY** OF THE  
LOCAL CHURCH

Reminder: The purpose of the follow up questions is not simply to rehash the sermon. Explore the implications of sermon in greater detail. Look at auxiliary passages to see how they bear on the topic. Do not feel a need to go through all of the questions, but try to discuss some in each category. The goal is to stimulate discussion based on the sermon.

### GETTING TO KNOW ME

- What time do you arrive for worship on Sunday mornings? Are you on time?
- What kind of music style do you prefer in a worship service? Why?
- What does I.M.P.A.C.T. stand for?
- When did you first come to Midland Free? What do you like most about Midland Free?

### INTO THE BIBLE

- Read Matthew 16:13-20 again—recall the main points of the sermon.
- Several local churches are depicted in the New Testament. Read and briefly describe each church. Acts 15:22-35; 1 Corinthians 1:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:17-22; Galatians 1:1-10; Philippians 1:1-10; Revelation 2:1-7; Revelation 2:8-11.
- Why is the local church so vital in mentoring disciples and the Great Commission?
- Read Matthew 18:15-20. What does Jesus say about handling a conflict in the church?
- Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7. What are the qualifications for an elder? Why are these important?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. Unpack what Paul is saying here. Why is this important?

### APPLICATION

- How would anyone know if you're "not being real" in our Life Group?
- Read and discuss the following quote: *"Even though the new crop of books decry the old church growth models, they still operate with the same basic assumption; namely that churches should be growing and that something is wrong with the church that isn't. This assumption, however, is alien to the New Testament. Didn't Jesus tell us that 'the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life and those who find it are few'?. . .There is simply no biblical teaching to indicate that church size is the measure of success. . .(nowhere in the New Testament is there) . . ."anxiety or an enthusiasm about the numerical growth of the church."* (pp 31-32), DeYoung & Kluck; *Why We Love The Church* (Moody-2009)
- Are you serving somewhere in the church? Why, why not? If not, what area would you like to serve in? Will you pursue it?

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