



# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

March 23, 2025

Pastor Patrick Conrad

## Sermon Discussion Guide

Series: What's the Point?

Sermon: Why Does the Church Exist?

### Recap the Highlights:

'CHURCH' Greek work, 'ekklesia' - the assembled community of the redeemed; called out and set apart for the purposes of God.

**WHY DOES THE CHURCH EXIST?** - The primary function of the church can be understood best by looking at the life and ministry of Christ - Jesus Himself tells us why He came...

- to give my life away to **others** - Matthew 20:28
- to rescue **others** - Luke 19:10
- to fulfill God's **plans** on this earth - John 6:38

**There is a natural gravitational pull towards becoming INWARDLY focused.**

If the Church exists for me (my needs)...

1. I will become self-serving and focused on my life to the exclusion of those Christ came to save.
2. I will miss the point of what the church is about and why I'm here.
3. I will lose sight of the pain and the plight of those outside the church.

Mark 2:1-5

- Are we willing to **navigate** the "large crowds"?
- Do we have the **audacity** to climb onto the roofs?
- Do we have the **energy** to lift them up?

### Now Dig Deeper:

1. What does it mean to be inwardly focused vs. outwardly focused? What are examples of both? How can you work towards being more outwardly focused?
2. Pastor Patrick shared on the 4 layers of the roof and how that related to us. Jesus came through the roof to get to us. The top layer, mud, was our flesh. The next was the heavy clay tiles which represented sin and shame, The next was our branches which illustrates our coping mechanisms. The Final layer was timbers which are meant to represent our foundation. Spend some time discussing what this means to you.
3. Talk about why you originally engaged the church. Why are you here today? How can each of us better engage the church?

### Respond & Pray:

- Pray as a group and ask the Holy Spirit to make his presence in you overwhelmingly so. Pray for God to reveal to you how he would like to use you to do more for the church.