



# Community Group Discussion Guide

That Thing You Do: Recap – Weekend of March 9-10, 2019

## I. Starter Questions:

**Simple question:** How have you been blessed most by our church (or another church)?

**Vulnerable question:** As we look back at our study of the things we do in our church, what's impacted you the most? What change will this bring about in your life?

## II. Recap of The Sermon Series:

**Context:** This weekend we are wrapping up the sermon series called "That Thing You Do". The series shined a broad light on the things we do in church. Why do we pray? Why do we preach? Why do we baptize? Why do we get involved with our church, and beyond? In other words, why do we do all that we do in church, why is it important, and how do we do it?

We are a forgetful people, so *all* of us benefit from being reminded of what these practices mean and look like! This series pointed us to the Gospel, answered questions some are too intimidated to ask, and practically taught us how to live out our calling as children of God in the context of the gathered church!

Like a good book, Pastor John opened the series with the setting — *the Gospel! Jesus' work on our behalf transforms both you and us*. We (you, and the church) are cast as key supporting characters in the beautiful narrative of redemption. As the story develops, we see that through the Gospel we are "made alive together with Christ" (Ephesians 2:5). How then do we respond with this new life we've been given? *We respond with Gospel actions!*

What Gospel actions, specifically? We pray, because it is fundamental to our health. We preach, because it's our primary task! We give, because trusting in ourselves leads to closed hands, and trusting God leads to open hands. We celebrate the Lord's Supper, because through it we remember Christ, and we proclaim His sacrificial death until He comes again. We baptize, because our lives in Christ should illustrate His work to others. We sing, because it is one result of the Spirit-filled life. We get involved, because healthy church growth demands every part working properly.

But, this is just the beginning! Just when you think this book couldn't get better, the story erupts in magnitude. We don't just stop here — we take "these things we do" all over the world! We reproduce what we're doing here so that we might "declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples" (Psalm 96:3). Let us live out these Gospel actions, "and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:25)

### III. Our Key Passage:

#### A. Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

#### For Discussion:

1. Why does the Gospel compel believers to action?
2. Why is the gathered church so important to Christ's mission?
3. Prayer is fundamental to our health. How so? What should our motivation be for prayer? What are some common misunderstandings we have about prayer? How can we follow Jesus' example for prayer?
4. We give of our resources because it demonstrates an open-handed trust in God. What does that look like in practice? What does it look like to be closed-handed? How did God speak to you, specifically, about your own giving?
5. We celebrate the Lord's Supper because it commemorates Jesus' life, his sacrificial death, and the New Covenant it ushered in. How has our study of the Lord's Supper changed your understanding of this ordinance?
6. We baptize believers so we illustrate His work to others. In this study, we were urged to resist worldly, false teachings. What examples of teachings should we avoid? We also cherished the biblical truths baptism represents. What biblical truths are represented in baptism?
7. We sing because it's one result of a Spirit-filled life. How do you experience the Spirit-filled life? What are some other results of a Spirit-filled life?
8. We get involved in the church because healthy church growth demands every part working properly. We're called to participate, not spectate! What is the Father's purpose for healthy church growth? How are we to maintain unity for healthy church growth (see Ephesians 4:2)? How and why must we participate for healthy church growth? (Battleship vs. cruise ship analogy.) What are some simple ways you could get involved?
9. How has the Lord used this study to change your understanding of what we do as a church? Is God leading you to take any steps of obedience as a result?

10. How can you help carry this mission beyond our church walls? What are some tangible ways to get involved with this larger vision, today?

#### **IV. Responding in Prayer:**

1. Pray for our church! Pray that, through our response to the Gospel, that many would call on the name of the Lord! Pray for that one individual that the Lord is laying on your heart to come to salvation.
2. Please pray for our students and leaders who will be traveling all over the world for Spring Break. They are responding with Gospel action, because of Christ's work, to take what we do beyond our walls! Pray for God's power to be with them as they share the Gospel, and for many to be saved! Pray specifically for our Western Europe, Puerto Rico, Santa Cruz, and Arizona teams, comprised of 56 students and 9 leaders in total.
3. Pray for our worship pastor search team as the search for our new worship pastor continues. Pray also for the man that God has for us! Pray that God would begin to uniquely shape and prepare his heart for our church.