

## OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...

What is one thing you love about your Church?

## DIG

Why do you think people naturally seek a community?

How is the Church so much more than just a club or civic organization?

### Read Matthew 16.13-18

*After Peter's statement of faith, Jesus makes a compelling announcement about the power and steadfastness of the Church He would build.*

What do you think it means that Christ would build the Church on a spiritual rock?

How have you seen the Church be a constant in your life or the world around you?

*Jesus promised that "he gates of Hades" would not be able to overcome the Church. A gate was the protected entrance to a stronghold, not an offensive weapon. In this way, Jesus was promising that the Church would be on the offense in bringing light to strongholds of darkness.*

Why is it important to remember that the Church isn't just a safe haven but a spiritual weapon for good?

How have you witnessed the Church overcome strongholds in this world?

## APPLY

How has being part of the Church overcome strongholds in your own life?

-KTW

## Leaders

### Sermon Series

This discussion guide is based on the current sermon series entitled "The Kingdom Unleashed: Themes in the Book of Acts." The series is designed to motivate people to embrace the Kingdom of God in their lives, making disciples of others.

### Big Idea

The Church's influence has shaped the world in which we live in ways most people don't even realize and it is still living and active today as a force for good.

### Leader's Note

You may have some people in your group who are just now taking their first steps in being part of the Church. While they may not have the context to answer some of these questions, you may have the opportunity to offer a testimony to the power of being part of God's family through your responses.

### Group Discussion Reminder

Our LIFE Groups are a great place to pour out the love we share into the lives of others. We can't keep this love and community to ourselves. Who do you know that might benefit from being part of your group? Share those names, pray for them, and ask God to give you the courage to talk to them about visiting your group.