



Week Two: What about St. James?

PRAY: Start with a time of prayer and worship.

REFLECT: Read and reflect on the following quote from Pastor Rick Warren:

“Absolutely nothing will revitalize a discouraged church faster than rediscovering its purpose.”

This quote is taken from a book written by Pastor Rick called *The Purpose Driven Church*. In it, he suggests that in order for a church to be healthy, it must be aligned with God’s purposes for the church. But what is the purpose of the Church?

READ AND DISCUSS: The purpose of God’s church here on earth is based on two key scriptures. Read aloud **Matthew 22: 36-40** (The Great Commandment) and then **Matthew 28:19-20** (The Great Commission). As you listen to these passage, notice what strikes you – a word, a phrase, or an image.

- What key words or images stood out to you as you listened to these verses?
- What do these two passages of scripture teach us about God’s purposes for the Church?

WATCH: Click the link to watch a short video where Matt talks about our vision and values here at St. James <https://bit.ly/3AawfIP>

DISCUSS: Matt reminded us that our five core values at St. James are Love, Serve, Build, Live, and Grow:

- Where do you see these values lived at out St. James? How has that changed in the last 18 months?
- Which of these values does our church community embody most effectively?
- What do we need to do to live out any of these values more effectively?
- Which of our church values do you personally find easier, and which are harder for you?

PRAY: Share prayer requests and close by praying for one another.