

WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE, HOLD ON

Matthew 16:18, 2 Corinthians 5:7–9

NOTES:

- I. THE CHURCH FINDS A WAY – IT IS THE HOPE FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW
- II. THE CHURCH WALKS BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT
- III. THE CHURCH SERVES OTHERS FIRST

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study

For Starters: How has life changed for you over the last seven months, since COVID-19? What have been your greatest frustrations? What have you learned and will not go back to?

The Basics: Read Acts 11:19–21 and this *Church History in 45 Seconds* (Richard Halvorsen):

*The church began as a **fellowship** of men and women centered on the living Christ. It went to Greece and became a **philosophy**. Travelled to Rome and became an **institution**. Moved throughout Europe and became a **culture**, then came to America and became an **enterprise**.*

Why was every stage in church development and movement important? What do we learn about the need for change for the church to continue?

Quick-Fire Round

1. Read Matthew 16:13–20. What do you learn about the church? What is it and who does it belong to? Why does the church progress often during persecution, pandemics? What encouragement and hope do you draw from Jesus' words to Peter for the church today and tomorrow?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:6–7, Hebrews 11:6, and Proverbs 3:4–6. Consider your everyday life. How much do you actually walk and live by faith? When have you had to *really* trust God? How can you learn to trust God more and build your faith in Him?
3. Read Hebrews 13:1–2 and Proverbs 31:8–9. When we don't know what to do or where to turn, we can serve others. Determine some practical ways how you individually, as a family, or as a community group can serve others. Make a plan, follow through, share stories.
4. Consider how you can stay in the Word and prayer, stay connected to the church, and stay connected to others. All are possible in any and every circumstance. How will you spend this time to grow in Christ and with others? Discuss.

Community Group Prayer: Pray the above Scriptures. Pray for the church (global, local, and North Metro); pray for specific areas for you to walk by faith and trust God; pray for ways to serve others.

Closing Prayer: *Father, thank you that your church wins because it belongs to you. Help me trust you now more than ever. I know you are in control and I ask you to guide my steps. Amen.*