

Stop Going to Church Week One Discussion Questions

- 1) Pastor Aaron asked how we use the word church in the message. Here are a few examples: "Are we going to church?" "Should we get married in a church?" "Is it time for church?" How do you incorporate the word church into your conversations?
- 2) The authors of the Bible didn't see church as a Sunday morning event. The Greek word Ekklēsia comes from two words: Ek= "out from" and Kaleo=" to call." The church is not a building. It is a community of people called out to live different lives because of Jesus. How would the church be different if people allowed God to change them daily by the work of the Holy Spirit to be more and more the character of Christ?
- 3) Imposter Syndrome is a collection of feelings of inadequacy that persist despite evidence to the contrary. For example, we think, "I don't belong here." "I'm not as capable as they think I am." "My success is due to luck." Is Imposter Syndrome something you struggle with? If so, what feelings of inadequacy persist in your life despite evidence to the contrary? If you are a parent, ask your kids this question, too. Have a loving discussion to normalize how often people wrestle with this in life.
- 4) List some ideas for why we might feel like imposters as Christians.
- 5) Read Luke 5:1-11. In verse 8, Simon Peter says to Jesus, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Simon Peter recognizes Jesus as God's Son. At the same time, Peter realizes he is a sinner far from God. Jesus calls Simon Peter to follow Him, and it is in following Jesus that Simon Peter's life changes. Imposter syndrome keeps us stuck as followers of Jesus because we focus on behavior modification instead of Jesus. How would your life change if you focused on Jesus and let His Spirit work within you over concentrating on good and proper behavior?
- 6) The church is a group of gathered people freed to love and lead people to Jesus. How is God calling you to love and lead people? How are you living out your faith day in and day out? How might God want to work through you in the church?