

# groups

Study Group: Participant Guide  
To the Church  
1 Thessalonians 1:1 – September 21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>

## CHECK-IN

*An opportunity to show authentic community as we **share the struggles** and **celebrate the victories** we've experienced in the last week.*

## STUDY

*Main Topics: Church History, New Age Movement, Christ & the Church*

- Is it important to study church history?
- Was there anything new you learned from Pastor Bill's explanation of the six spiritual movements in the United States? (see Leader Notes)
- The Second Great Awakening focused on personal responsibility for one's own sin. Why is this so important to the Gospel?
- According to the Bible, why is having "private faith" not an option?
- How does Scripture encourage us to combat the New Age Movement?

Read Colossians 1:15-18, Revelation 19:6-9, & 1 Peter 2:4-8

- What is the church supposed to look like according to these passages?
- In light of how Scripture describes the Church, why is it important to pursue church membership? (see Leader Notes)

## APPLY

- How did God speak to you on Sunday?
- If someone brings up the topic of church history, what do you typically feel? (Ex. curiosity, boredom, excitement, sorrow, dread, hope)
- How have you been pressured to keep your faith private?
- Pastor Bill made a comparison between a capstone and a cornerstone. He made the point that too many times we have relied on other things to do what only Jesus can do, as if a building relied on the capstone rather than the cornerstone. How have you seen this truth in your life?
- Pastor Bill said, "The church is at its best when it's together." How do we pursue unity in the church while not deviating from the Gospel?
- Why should it give us hope that Christ is described as the head of the Church?
- What do you feel when you are described as the bride of Christ?

## CLOSE

Which attributes of God did you see in this week's passage? How should it change the way that you pray, think, speak or act this week?