

S A V E D B Y T H E C H U R C H



INTRODUCTION

This week we're celebrating the launch of Woodstock City Church, our newest church. But why do we build churches? Aren't there already enough churches in the Atlanta area? What is the benefit of expending the enormous amount of time and energy it takes to build a church?

We build churches because, at its best, the local church is about *people*. We have the opportunity to change lives for the better. Why would we pass on that opportunity?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word "church"? Does the word carry mostly positive or negative connotations for you? Why?
2. Why do you think so many people in our culture have a negative view of the church? What do you think it would take to change their perceptions?
3. During the message, Andy said, *"If the influence of the local church were withdrawn from my life, I would be a wreck."* How has the local church influenced your life for the better?
4. Talk about an experience serving in a ministry or connecting in a group that grew your faith. What was it about that experience that changed your relationship with God?
5. Have you ever been on a short-term mission trip? If so, how did that experience change your perspective on your heavenly Father?
6. Is there something you need to do to participate more fully in the mission of the local church? If so, what step can you take this week toward greater participation? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

We love the local church. It shaped and saved many of our lives. It shaped our nation. We're committed to keeping it going. That's why we've built churches all around Atlanta. It's why we'll continue to build churches. Jesus promised the gates of Hades will not overcome his church. In the past two-thousand years, they haven't. That's why, outside of your family, there's no better investment you can make than in the local church.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:18