

God Reimagined: The Biblical Foundation of Luther's Reformation
Living the Message 2023-2024
May 2024 Study Guide

May – Walls Optional: The Church with Pastor Lose

[Click here to watch the video.](#) Or vimeo.com/930102565

Opening Prayer

Dear God, bless each one who comes to this study. Open our ears, hearts, and minds so that we may come to know you more deeply through studying about the life and theology of your servant, Martin. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Focus Statement

The church is the body of Christ, the fellowship of all believers. The Holy Spirit works through the church to tell the good news of what God has accomplished in Jesus and to care for the world God loves so much.

Questions

1. What was a takeaway from Pastor Lose's two-part definition of church. A first thought?
 - 1) The Church is the place where we give witness to God's love for the world in Jesus through our proclamation of the Gospel and thereby root us in our primary identity as God's children.
 - 2) The Church is the place that prepares its members – the children of God and Body of Christ – to partner with God in God's mission to love and bless the world.
2. Why do you go to church? From a sense of duty, obligation, need, or something else?
3. Think about/discuss examples of opportunities to do God's will and be God's people in the world. What is challenging and/or fulfilling about seeing and responding to these opportunities?

Read or review [Luke 24:13-35](#)

The Road to Emmaus: Church is where we give witness to God's love in the Gospel through prayers, hymns, Scripture, sermon, confession and absolution. All of this is meant to anchor us in our identity as God's beloved children. It is the place we don't just talk about Jesus but experience Jesus.

1. For you, how does worship anchor your identity as a child of God?

2. How do you experience Jesus during worship? What part of worship resonates with you the most: prayers, hymns, Scripture, sermon, confession and absolution? Something else?

Read or review [1 Corinthians 12](#)

The church partners with God. We do this as a body of faith – gifts to agencies, organizing volunteers, meals program, etc. But – and more importantly – church equips its members to hear God’s call (vocation!) to love our neighbor by working to make this world more trustworthy. (It takes all kinds!)

1. Why do you think Paul chooses the body as a metaphor for the community of Christ? What are the advantages of this metaphor, particularly with a congregation that is experiencing division and discord like they were in Corinth?
2. How can we encourage each other to take pride in the gifts we have and the roles we play?
3. How can we actively value each other—particularly those who have different gifts or hold different opinions from our own—and in this way grow more fully in to being the body of Christ?

Bonus: Which of the church metaphors that Pastor Lose mentioned resonated with you the most? Why or why not? Do you have a different metaphor suggestion?

- Church gathered, church scattered (or sent)
- Glaucoma surgery
- Respiratory system of the body of Christ

Closing Prayer

Dear God, you have not only redeemed us but drawn us into community and promised to use us to make a difference in the world. Open our ears to hear your invitation, open our eyes to see you working in the world, and fill our hearts with the courage to join you in that work. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Next Year

Thank you for being a part of this Living the Message series! I hope you have found it worthwhile and faith-building. I will send information about next year’s series later this summer. Please join in again and invite a friend—all are welcome!

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