

Discussion Guide- Week 5
**“Where Jesus is Known and
Made Known ”**
February 14, 2021



Church is one of the most powerful forces in human history. For many people it rests at the center of our lives. That doesn't mean though that every church is perfect or that every season of church life will be the same. These five weeks we are discussing church and in particular the values that, at CPC, we believe make us who we are. Don't worry. You're going to discover that this series isn't just about church. It's really just about life. So, whatever your church background, we're glad you are here.

Let's Get Started:

1. Take a quick poll. When it comes to gift giving is it *really* the thought that counts? Why or why not?

Let's Get in the Word:

Read Romans 10:8-10

- In verse 8 what does it mean when it says, “the word is near you?” Why would this matter to a group of Christians living in Rome, the capital city of the Empire, a city far removed from the parts of the world where Christians might be more prevalent?
- Why does Paul (the author of Romans) make a distinction between “your mouth” and “your heart?” What is the difference between these two things?
- In verse 9, why is such importance placed on one's faith in Christ being both “in your heart” and coming out of your mouth?
- Most people find it easier to have faith either in their heart or on their lips. Which best describes you?

For example: One person may find that it is easy to express outward confidence in their faith, but often inwardly wrestles with doubt or finds their thoughts far from God. Another person may find themselves very secure in their heart, rarely wavering in their confidence in God, but they find it takes much more effort to speak regularly about their faith in Jesus to others.

- Can anyone in your group share a time when your faith grew inwardly, in your heart.
- Can anyone share a time when you have spoken about or expressed faith clearly and been glad you did? What was it like?
- Has there ever been a time when someone else spoke clearly and openly about their faith in a way that was helpful to you? What was that like? What in particular made it helpful to you?

Read 10:11-15

- Verses 11-13 are meant to be encouraging. How do you see encouragement in these words?
- When we talk about faith the way we just did (something we need to have in our hearts *and* on our lips) it can make faith feel like a way of earning our salvation, even a source of guilt. But these verses seem to remind us that faith is a gift, easily opened and enjoyed. What thoughts do you have about this?
- Looking back at verse 14 and 15, what role is our faith meant to have in the lives of others?
- It is very common today for people to talk about “religion” and faith as a private thing. Does God intend our faith to be public or private? What challenges does that create for modern Christ followers?

Let’s Apply this to our lives:

- One well known Christian ministry, when teaching people how to talk about their faith uses the phrase, “earn the right to be heard.” What does this mean?
- In this week’s message we were called to “***be the church our city can’t live without.***” How might this help us fulfill the call of Romans 10:8-15?
- Last week in our message we talked about being a church where everyone is “***Connecting & Contributing.***” Why might this be an important first step in being the church our city can’t live without?
- As we end this sermon series, please spend time praying for each other and specifically for CPC in the year ahead.