DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

NOVEMBER 15 - 21

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

As disciples, we're called not just to be informed but to be transformed into people who look more like Jesus—in our homes, our workplaces, and our communities. This guide helps you apply what we're learning at Lakepointe to your weekly rhythms. Use it to engage in daily Bible reading, have meaningful conversations with your group, and take clear next steps in following Jesus.

WEEKLY SUMMARY

As we conclude our series **Into the Breach,** we come to Commitment Weekend. We stand with confidence in Jesus's declaration that He will build His Church and nothing will prevail against it. God invites us to participate in His unstoppable work, building on the faithfulness of generations before us and investing our lives in what matters for eternity.

As we enter Commitment Weekend, Romans 12:1 challenges us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, fully surrendered to God's purposes. Through **Into the Breach**, we have an opportunity to take a step of faith and participate in what God is doing in our church, our communities, and generations to come. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to surrender, commit, and step into the breach for His glory.

RESOURCES:

- Sermon: **Into The Breach | November 14-15 | Pastor Josh Howerton**
- Daily Bible Reading: *To follow along each day, download the Lakepointe App*
  - **Matthew 16 | Romans 12 | Philippians 1 | 1 Corinthians 3 | 1 Peter 2**
- Podcast: **Pastors REACT to Sophie Cunningham's MASTERCLASS on Evangelism with Theo Von | Live Free Ep. 102**

KEY VERSE:

"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

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONVERSATION STARTER:

If Chip and Joanna Gaines walked into your house and promised to renovate it, would you feel confident or unsure of their ability? Would working with them be fun or stressful?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What has God shown you this week in your **daily bible reading**?
- **Read Matthew 16:13–18.** What is Peter's confession about who Jesus is? How does knowing that Jesus is building His church give you confidence to participate in what He is doing?
- **Read Romans 12:1.** Paul exhorts us to give our lives as a living sacrifice to God. What area of your life is God asking you to surrender more fully as an act of worship?
- **Read Philippians 1:6.** What confidence does Paul express about the work God has begun in His people? How does this promise encourage you to trust God with what He wants to accomplish in and through your life?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 3:9–11.** Paul reminds that the only foundation that is secure is the foundation of Jesus and believers are God's fellow workers in building. Where are you participating with God as a fellow worker to build His church?
- **Read 1 Peter 2:4–5.** How does Peter describe the role believers play in the spiritual house God is building? What gifts, opportunities, or resources has God entrusted to you that you could use to help build His church?
- Over the last five weeks of Into the Breach, what is one truth and one step of faith God has given you? Share with your group, then pray together that God would empower each of you to go into the breach!

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Sacrifice or contribution? Jesus invites us to participate in stepping into the breach for others. Your sacrificial commitment stands in the breach in our city, our state, around the world, and for generations of your own family. As we engage in Commitment Weekend, spend time asking God to cultivate a heart of surrender and sacrifice in you and reveal the step of obedience He is calling you and your family to take. As you consider that step and how it will shape your walk with Jesus, watch a special message from Pastor Josh and Jana at intothebreach.lakepointe.church/commit.

PRAYER GUIDE

Into the Breach - Pray for what God wants to do both in and through the church and your group in this season

LIVE FREE PODCAST

DEEPER DIVE INSIGHTS FROM LIVE FREE PODCAST EPISODE 102

Pastors REACT to Sophie Cunningham's MASTERCLASS on Evangelism with Theo Von

What did Jesus mean when He promised to build His church, and was Peter the first Pope? In Episode 102, Pastors Josh, Carlos, and Paul unpack Matthew 16 and explore the differences between Catholic and Protestant interpretations of church authority. They explain why Christ's church cannot be defeated and how every believer can participate in His mission. Through Sophie Cunningham's conversation with Theo Von, they demonstrate how ordinary Christians can confidently share their faith, trust God's grace, and point others to Jesus.

Jesus Builds His Church | Matthew 16:18; 1 Peter 2:4–6

Jesus' promise in Matthew 16 reveals that the church is not a building but a people called to follow Him. Christ Himself builds and sustains His church, and no opposition can overcome His mission.

- Jesus declared His promise near Caesarea Philippi, a center of pagan worship associated with Hades.
- Ekklesia emphasizes a gathered people, not a physical building.
- William Tyndale's sacrifice highlights the importance of making Scripture accessible to everyone.
- Believers are called to participate in Christ's mission, not simply attend church.

Christ Is Our Ultimate Authority | Matthew 16:16–19; Matthew 18:18

Jesus' words to Peter have shaped centuries of debate over church authority. Protestant understanding holds that Christ and the confession of His identity, *NOT* papal succession, form the church's foundation.

- Catholic teaching connects Peter's authority to the succession of popes.
- Protestants emphasize Jesus as the cornerstone and Peter's confession that He is the Messiah.
- Matthew 18 extends the language of binding and loosing beyond Peter.
- Scripture provides the ultimate standard for evaluating church teaching and authority.

The Church Cannot Be Defeated | Matthew 16:18–19; Isaiah 22:22

Throughout history, persecution and cultural opposition have threatened Christianity, yet Christ's church continues to endure. Jesus' promise gives believers confidence to stand firm and advance the gospel.

LIVE FREE PODCAST

DEEPER DIVE INSIGHTS FROM LIVE FREE PODCAST EPISODE 102

- The church has endured persecution in Rome, France, China, and Iran.
- Cultural and political opposition cannot overturn Christ's promise.
- The keys to the kingdom emphasize the responsibility to proclaim the gospel faithfully.
- Believers can face uncertainty with confidence in Jesus rather than fear.

Be a Witness, Not a Lawyer | Acts 1:8; Romans 8:1

Sophie Cunningham's conversation with Theo Von illustrates that sharing Jesus begins with authentic faith, not perfect arguments. Christians are called to share what Christ has done and point others toward the forgiveness and security found in Him.

- Sharing personal testimony can open natural conversations about Jesus.
- Believers are called to be witnesses, not experts with every answer.
- Salvation rests on Christ's finished work, not personal performance.
- Those in Christ can rest in God's love rather than fear condemnation.

> **Jesus Christ will build His church.**
>
> **And the gates of hell will never be able to stop it.**
>
> **— Pastor Josh Howerton**

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- What It Means to Be Protestant — Gavin Ortlund
- Orthodoxy — G. K. Chesterton
- The Everlasting Man — G. K. Chesterton
- The Case for Christ — Lee Strobel
- The Reason for God — Timothy Keller
- I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist — Frank Turek