



context:

line by line:

application:



study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

Text: Matthew 16:18 & Acts 2:37-41

1. What questions did this week's message raise for you?
2. Read the text, Matthew 16: 13-20, through together.
 - a. Do you think this is a turning point in the teaching of Jesus to his disciples? If so, in what way?
 - b. In asking this question, what is Jesus getting at?
 - c. What do you think he means to say about this new movement he's starting?
3. Turn to Acts 2 and read verses 37-41 together.
 - a. In verse 38, how does Peter say that we join into this movement that will be known as "church?"
 - b. Sometimes the answer to the question of how to be saved is linked with the word "faith" in the gospels, sometimes "repent", and sometimes both. What light is shed on the meaning of "salvation" here?
 - c. How is salvation the way in which we are joined to Jesus' people?
4. Bible commentator R.J.D. Utley says the following about Christ's church in commenting on these passages:

**God's heart beats for a lost world made in His image,
created for fellowship with Himself!**

 - a. How can you see Jesus' heart in these passages as he starts the movement known as "church?"
 - b. How do you think he wants our hearts to be when we come to the gathering?
 - What is the vision really of what you and I can be when we are moving together in the power of the Spirit and presence of Jesus [as the church gathered]?

Pray for one another, your whole church family, that we would live out Christ's value of being a movement for Jesus. Ask him to show us what that means over the course of this series and leading up to the celebration of his death and resurrection at Easter..