

Connect Group Notes

Sermon: Core Convictions: Church Growing

Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Date: 9th March 2025 (AM)

Introduction

We return to our six church 'Core Convictions' looking at number 4 – God Glorifying. This coincides with the launch of the Tiger Project – 'Under One Roof'.

Bible Study

[Leaders, no questions suit every small group. Please adapt them to your own group]

Read Matthew 16:13-20

1. In v.17 Jesus reminds Peter how it is he came to believe. How does Jesus' perspective encourage us to pray for others? How might this also explain such confusion about who Jesus is?
2. Jesus makes it personal for the disciples – Who do YOU say I am? In what ways might Jesus' direct challenge encourage us in our outreach?
3. What is the rock (petra) on which Jesus will build his church – v.18? Why can't it be Peter (petros) – see v.23?
4. What do the 'keys' symbolise and what does it mean for Jesus to give them to his church?
5. In what ways might we find church growth hard (see an example Acts 6:1)? How can Jesus' words encourage us when we experience 'growing pains'?
6. Jesus says "I will build my church" – how is this an encouragement to us in Lindfield? What about for those under persecution? Or where the church is shrinking?

Pray

- Pray for Ukraine; for peace, for wisdom, for justice.
- Pray for the Tiger Project practicalities; raising funds, finalising plans, seeking permissions.
- For our local schools as they seek a new Trust