

4. Eugene Peterson wrote: "Being a [church member] is a vocation, a way of life."
Does this statement reflect your relationship to the local church? Why or why not?

5. In the local church, we live "at the intersection of human need and God's grace."
Where does being invitational or hospitable fit in to this equation?

6. It's important to see our stories as part of the "Jesus story." What do we lose out on if we only ever think our stories are ours and ours alone?

7. 7. God has strategically placed us at the intersection of heaven and earth. Who is one person at your "intersection," and what might you do to be a type of "crossing guard" for them?

Recapturing the Wonder That Is the Church (A BLESS Series)

"4 Realizations that Recapture the Wonder (Part 2)"
Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2

"Being a [church member] is a vocation, a way of life. It means participation in an intricate web of hospitality, living at the intersection of human need and God's grace, inhabiting a community where men and women who don't fit are welcomed, where neglected children are noticed, where the stories of Jesus are told, and people who have no stories find that they do have stories, stories that are part of the Jesus story. Being a [church member] places us strategically yet unobtrusively at a heavily trafficked intersection between heaven and earth." (Eugene Peterson; adapted)

To be the church God called us to be, believers need to recapture the wonder of what the church is and what the church _____ be.

Hebrews 13: ² Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Galatians 4: ⁴ ...You welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.

4 Realizations that Recapture the Wonder (Part 2)

1. We get to belong to God's church.

2. We get to _____ others to God's church (Romans 12: 13).

When we gather...

- We are "at the _____ of human need and God's grace."

"Crises can help us remember what's important and draw us together. But what if 'we're all in this together' feels...like being trapped in an eternal car ride with people who either drive too recklessly or scream every time there's a small bump in the road? The stress can make people want to protect themselves by pulling away even further." (Collin Hansen and Sarah Eekhoff Zylstra)

- You and I get to help people without _____ "find that they do have stories, stories that are a part of the Jesus story."

Take the whole population of the U.S. and take out only those who profess to be Christians. Now, of that smaller number, only _____ have a biblical worldview that they consistently try to apply to everyday life, according to one recent study.

- We are placed "strategically at a heavily trafficked _____ between heaven and earth."

"My first priority is strangers, because this may be their one shot to be welcomed into the church." ...[The church is a family], and if we can't come close to practicing that on a Sunday morning, God help us the rest of the week!" (Rebecca McLaughlin)

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Read Galatians 4:4 and Hebrews 13:2. Share about a time someone showed you hospitality or about a time you were able to show hospitality.

3. Read 1 Romans 12:13. In what ways does practicing hospitality reflect God's grace and goodness?