



GATHERED

The Empowered Presence of God's People

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Excursus

A Study on the Church by



SMYRNAFIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH



EXCURSUS

Knowing that we are fallible people who need constant recalibration to the standard of the truth of God's Word, we should regularly pause to reflect on our understanding of God and his designs for our lives. This excursus is simply a planned moment of corporate reflection on our theological foundation and our practice in response.

Use the guide below to discuss with others the implications of the theological foundation we've been building over the past six weeks.

I posed three questions for consideration. Think of these three questions carefully and answer them as best you can.

- ◆ Is it possible that our theological foundation isn't simply cracked but eroded?
- ◆ Is it possible that because our theological foundation is damaged, we might also be practicing church in a damaged way?
- ◆ If that is possible, how can we recognize our error?

Additionally, I put forward four juxtapositions for us to consider. For each set of concepts, see if you can make a short list of specific examples that demonstrate how we practice each concept. There will be examples for both.

Make sure you don't think of these as necessarily good vs. bad, but in terms of which concept serves the other. This relationship is of primary concern as we consider our actions in the world.

- ◆ Kingdom v. Company
- ◆ Subjects v. Sovereigns
- ◆ Separation v. Attraction
- ◆ Godly Wisdom v. Human Whim

Finally, read 1 Peter 2:9-10. Discuss what these two verses imply about how we should practice our lives and worship as the church.