4 POINTS CHURCH

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

GOD'S HEART FOR — WEEK 5

God's Heart For His Church

Pastor Russ Chambers | November 1, 2026

Main Scripture: Romans 12:4-8

Connect

ICEBREAKER

Tell us about a time someone invited you into something, a team, a club, a dinner table, a church, and it ended up mattering more than you expected. Who invited you, and why did you say yes?

Message Snapshot

BIG IDEA

God builds His church by giving every believer a people to belong to and a part to play, so we gather to be strengthened and we go to be sent.

STICKY BOTTOM LINE

We gather so that we can go.

REMEMBER THIS

You have a people to belong to. You have a role to play.

KEY TRUTHS FROM SUNDAY

- 4 Points Church is beginning its 15th year, and Pastor Russ called us a testament to the hand of God, not our own endurance. Our mission is to reach the least, the lost, and the lonely. Our vision is to take the next step: to equip followers of Jesus to discover their calling and live it out together. As the church grows, and to mature you as a believer, you should have the joyful desire to become more active, not less.
- Every believer belongs to the capital "C" Church body. Romans 12 says we are one body with many members who do not all have the same function. Pastor Russ said unity is not unanimity.
- Every believer has a part to play. Paul lists gifts that differ and says to use them with zeal and cheerfulness. Pastor Russ warned against becoming a shell, serving out of obligation instead of joy, and told how his uncle John's home was the house people pulled over at when they were discouraged.
- We gather to hold firmly to our hope, stir one another toward love, and spur one another on toward good works (Hebrews 10:23-25). But we gather so that we can go. In John 20:21 Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
- Small acts of obedience go farther than we think. Because one couple said yes and invited a few people, Pastor Russ said 16 people are active in the church today and 6 have been baptized.

Scripture

Read together: Romans 12:4-8

As you read, notice how Paul describes the church as a body, and watch the end of each gift on the list. Paul tells us not only what to do, but how to do it.

Discuss

OBSERVE

1. In verses 4-5, what picture does Paul use for the church? What does he say about the members having (or not having) the same function, and how does he say we are connected to one another?
2. Read verses 6-8 and list the gifts Paul names. What phrase does he attach to each one about how it should be done?
3. Pastor Russ also read Hebrews 10:23-25. What 3 things does that passage say we are doing when we meet together?

UNDERSTAND

4. Pastor Russ said unity is not unanimity. What is the difference between a group of people who all think and look alike and a body of diverse people who belong to each other? Why would God design the church with different functions?
5. Pastor Russ said there are weeks when he needs to borrow faith from the people around him. Why is it so hard to hold on to faith by yourself in a stormy season?
6. Pastor Russ described a tension between gathering and going. What goes wrong in a church or a believer who only gathers? What goes wrong in one who only goes?

APPLY

7. Pastor Russ described service that keeps the actions but has lost the zeal and cheerfulness. Where are you right now: serving with joy, serving out of obligation, or sitting on the bench? What is one honest reason?
8. Pastor Russ asked what would happen if your neighborhood knew you by the gifts of the Spirit at work in your life. What would the people around you, neighbors, coworkers, or friends, say they could count on you for? Who is one person outside the church who needs that from you?

Live It Out

Pastor Russ's challenge was to find a body, use your gifts in it, and not quit. Pick one next step and do it before next Sunday: sign up for a service team, take part in the Thanksgiving food drive, sponsor a child for Christmas, or invite one person to come with you to 4 Points Church. Tell your group which one you chose, and come ready to share what happened.

Prayer

- Thank God for His faithfulness to 4 Points Church through 15 years, and for the people He has given each of us to belong to.
- Ask God to show each person in the group the part He has given them to play, and to replace obligation with zeal and cheerfulness.
- Pray for anyone who is wavering in their faith right now, that they would find people who will hold on to hope with them.
- Pray by name for the people each of us could invite or serve this month, and for 4 Points Church to keep gathering and keep going to the least, the lost, and the lonely.

Father, thank You that You did not leave us to follow You alone. Thank You for a people to belong to and a part to play. Forgive us for the times we have settled for going through the motions. Give us joy in serving, courage to invite someone this week, and eyes for the people You are sending us to. In Jesus' name, amen.

HOST TIP Some in your group may be visiting or unsure if 4 Points Church is their church, and Pastor Russ said that is okay. Keep the Apply questions from becoming a guilt check. Invite people to share one small step, and thank everyone who answers.