



Part 2 Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

Scholars and researchers tell us that there are some in our community that are actively opposed to the church but the vast majority of the population that are not active church members have no feelings one way or the other about the church- they hardly even notice that it's there. That's because many churches exist primarily for its members, not its community.

Jeremy challenged us this week to live the Great Adventure of being in our community. Of getting outside the safe walls of our church, believing in Gordon, and being a part of Gordon.

In what ways have you seen the church succeed in impacting the community?

How have you seen it fail?

What kind of impact should the church have on the community around it?

What kind of opinion would you like your community to have about our church?

How would such an opinion promote the gospel of Jesus Christ?

If our church disappeared overnight, would the surrounding community care or even notice? Why or why not?

Into the Word:

Read Psalm 24:1–2.

According to this verse, who does Gordon County belong to?

If the above is true, can God only work in places that are “Christian”?

How could you use this verse to counter someone who says that we need to get people into church so that God can save them?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23–30.

In this passage, Paul uses the example of meat offered to an idol. He gives reasons why Christians might want to avoid eating meat if they know it has been sacrificed to idols, but he concludes that the most important factor in this situation is a Christian's attitude toward God while eating the meat. Because the whole earth is the Lord's, anything we do in His name can bring glory and praise to Him.

Sometimes we hear Christians say that they want to take God to the world. Do we really need to take God somewhere or is He already there? Do we really need to put God “back in the schools” or is He already there? How about your workplace or the places that you go for recreation?

One of the most important things we can do as individuals and churches is to be aware of the ways God is already at work in our communities and to join in His work wherever we see it happening. Our problem is that sometimes the way God is working doesn't look like what we think it should look like.

Would you agree that it is possible to join secular organizations in the work of God?

What about organizations from other churches?

What about organizations from other religions?

Is it better for churches to start their own programs to make an impact in their communities, or to join organizations that are already doing things? Are there certain situations in which each approach might be better?

What secular organizations in your community are doing good things?

Apply The Word

What are some reasons or excuses you have given in the past for not serving people in your community? How can you find ways around these things?

Would your campus or community group be willing to serve together in this way? Discuss a way to make this happen.

Do you have any big ideas for how we could reach out to the Gordon County community? Share your ideas with your group and others.