



Session 3 - **BREAK OUT**

St. John
NEXT groups



What could happen if a church didn't settle for ministry as usual, but dared to dream big and rely on the Holy Spirit?

Video Intro - a brief two-minute welcome and overview from Pastor Dion.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we are ready. Ready to take a step into the future. Ready to see you work in mighty and miraculous ways. Over the past two sessions, we have reflected on your goodness to St. John. We trust that you have exciting plans for this journey, and that you have called each of us to be a part of it. Reveal to each of us how we can to partner with you. Amen.
(You may also simply pray as led.)

Leader: Last session, we boldly asked God to show us specific areas where we could “step up.” We committed to praying for God to reveal how we could grow in the areas of time, talents, and treasures. In this session, we’re going to flesh out some of those ideas. We’re going to dream big for our lives, St. John, and for the kingdom of God.

Q: Just based on your own level of paying attention to culture, what are the trends of Christianity in America right now?

Q: As an individual believer, what are your responsibilities to the American Christian church? What are your responsibilities to St. John Church, Ellisville? How do these obligations overlap; how are they different or the same?

Q: Pastor Dion pointed out that there is “great power in unity.” What would unity look like in Christianity today? What would unity look like here at St. John church?

Leader: Let’s look at what happens when an individual believer and God’s ministry get out of whack with each other.

BIBLE STORY: 2 Kings 17:5-6; 19:32-36; 20:12-19 (God’s king is content to postpone destruction.) *(Assign each of the three sections to a different person to read aloud; have them each read in order.)*

Q: What was the state of affairs for Israel (the Northern Kingdom) and Judah (the Southern Kingdom) at this time?

Q: How does this compare to the decline of American Christian Churches and the current stability of St. John Church?

Q: What was Hezekiah’s response to the mixed news from Isaiah?

Q: How does this biblical example relate to a trap that St. John has to face? How does it compare to what our response should be in the face of trials for the church at large?

Q: We've all spent time praying about the powerful actions steps God is leading us to take. What kind of impact could the people of St. John make in our community if we all leaned in and stepped up? What things might God accomplish through our church?

Leader: We have a great biblical example of what it looks like when God's people lean in, step up, and let the Holy Spirit break out.

BIBLE STORY: Acts 2:42-47 (The believers added to their number daily those who were being saved.)
(Ask someone to read the passage aloud.)

Leader: A core group of approximately 150 people started a movement whose impact is still reverberating two thousand years later, and their actions have resulted in 2.2 billion people believing in Jesus. What possibilities could there be for almost two thousand people at St. John?

Q: We've already seen what STJ has done with our resources in the past. What possibilities could be in store for our impact on God's kingdom in the future?

Q: On November 19/20, Pastor Dion and Pastor Hower will be asking members to commit to their part in the vision of St. John Church. What are you considering committing to? How will you lean in and step up, so that the ministry here can break out?

Leader: In the next two years, God is going to take us on a journey of radical generosity. He is going to open our eyes to opportunities to disciple the next generation, engage the community, make a safe and inviting place for people to come meet with God. And the great part of it is that everyone around you is going to be on the same journey too!

Closing Prayer

God, we've seen the amazing things that you have accomplished at St. John. We take seriously our call to be your vehicle for meeting the needs of the world. Each and every one of us at St. John is a crucial piece of your solution. Help us to agree with you, God, that you have big things planned for this church, above and beyond what we've done. We believe that these are not just a big plan for a big church, but individual plans for each of the people at St. John as well. Help us to take the next step in committing to our own individual spiritual journey and making an impact in the lives around us. Amen.