



Session 3 - **BREAK OUT**

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

Opening Prayer

Lord, make us ready. Ready to take a step into the future. Ready to see you work in mighty and miraculous ways. 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.)*

❖ **Play Intro Video** (a brief two-minute welcome and overview from Pastor Dion).

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 ask God to do something huge in us and through us.

1. **From your perspective of our current culture, what are the trends of Christianity in America right now?**
2. **As an individual believer, what are your responsibilities to the American Christian church? What are your responsibilities to St. John Church? How do these obligations overlap; how are they different or the same?**
3. **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?**
4. **Considering the decline of American Christian Churches, how does this affect the current stability of St. John Church?** (Leader suggestion: Not as many people are growing up in the church; therefore, they aren’t necessarily looking for a church)
5. **It is clear that churches are facing many challenges. How can St. John respond to those challenges in this changing climate?**
6. **We’ve spent time praying about the powerful action 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?**

BIBLE STORY: Acts 2:42-47

(The believers added to their number daily those who were being saved.)

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. 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.

- 7. In verse 44, we see a people realize how much they had in common. How would the impact on our community be influenced if the people of our church focused more on what we have in common and less on how we are different?**
- 8. Think about what 150 people accomplished. Brainstorm a list of possibilities that thousands of people at St. John could accomplish if we truly lean into our mission?**
- 9. Which of the possibilities that you have discussed fit your own talents and resources?**

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 relentlessly pursue people, mobilize the next generation, and 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!

- 10. On November 19/20, every person who calls St. John their church will be asked to commit to be a part of *NEXT*. How will you lean in and step up, so that the ministry here can break out?**

Closing Prayer

God, we've seen the amazing things that you have accomplished at St. John. We want to 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.