



INTRODUCTION

Engage-Part 1: Our Vision

As each new year begins, we often evaluate the past in order to make changes for a better future.

During this five-week series we will explore what we're all about, focus on our vision as a church, and how you can be a part of that. We can new year—together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think most people in our society think about church? Do you think most people view it as something that is relevant to their lives? Explain your answer?
2. Why do you think the church may not be as relevant to many people as it once was? What are some things that have changed? What do you think the church can do to attract more people?
3. Our vision at Chestnut Ridge Church is “to be an inviting church that leads people into a growing relationship with God and others”. What do you think it means to be an “inviting church?” Why are relationships so important to the vision of the church?
4. Read John 6:66-69; John 14:6 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Why is it important that we always remember our responsibility to spread the gospel with those outside our walls? How can we become more effective in reaching people for Christ?
5. Read Matthew 22:35-40 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Why is love the most important thing? Do you think the church in America is known for its love? Explain your answer. How can we become more loving to others?
6. Read Ephesians 3:16-19 and Ephesians 4:15-16. How should love be displayed within the church? How do we experience God's love in greater ways when we are with others as opposed to when we are by ourselves?
7. Read 1 John 4:7-12. How can the church demonstrate love to the world? How is our love for God related to our love for one another?
8. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

Have you ever walked through the doors of a church and felt you weren't welcome or you didn't belong? It may feel as though some churches don't want visitors—they aren't very inviting.

At The Ridge, your spiritual welfare is important. We care about our church, and we feel strongly that it's our responsibility to introduce people to Jesus. Relationships are the primary focus, starting with a relationship with God. A lot of churches focus on Bible knowledge as a sign of spiritual maturity. However, at The Ridge, if we can help you love God and experience his love for you, we have succeeded as a church.

Helping you love God is the most important thing we can do. Jesus told us that the greatest command was to love God with all of our heart, soul, and strength. He added, though, that the second greatest command is to love your neighbor as yourself. The church is to be about love. It's to be about relationships. And those relationships lead to spiritual growth. Our vision is to be an inviting church that leads people into growing relationships with God and others.

KEY VERSES

John 6:66-69

John 14:6

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Ephesians 4:15-16

Matthew 22:35-40

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Ephesians 3:16-19

1 John 4:7-12