 **Message Outline**

*A Last Word on the 2023 Word:*

*CHURCH*

**Mt. 16:13ff., Acts 2, 1Tim.3:15**

**Intro:** Last week…Godly Goals for 2024…

* Next week…new Word of the Year reveal…
* Today…reviewing 2023 Word CHURCH…
* The challenges we faced as a CHRUCH in 2023…
* What we did to deepen in our understanding of CHURCH in 2023…

a) “CHURCH Shopping” and “OT CHURCH: Leviticus” sermon series…

b) “God Made Us a Family” liturgy…

c) “CHURCH Clap” sporadic song…

* 3 key Biblical passages to review CHURCH…

**Read:** Matthew 16:13-20

**v.13-14—**A question to get them talking…

**v.15-16—**The real question, the real answer…

**v.17-20—**The first mention of CHURCH…

* Jesus not making Peter first pope but affirming his confession of Christ (cf. v.23)…
* CHURCH belongs to Jesus (v.18), connects earth and heaven (v.19), but needs to be understood in light of the death/resurrection of Jesus (v.20-21)…

**Read:** Acts 2:36-39, 42

* Pop culture’s negative portrayal of the church…
* CHURCH’s positive influence on world history (see *How Christianity Changed the World* by Alvin Schmidt)…
* Acts 2 and the birth of the CHURCH…

**v.36—**The message of the CHURCH…

**v.37-39—**Hearing with hearts, not just ears prompts change…

**v.42—**The 4 walls the CHURCH is built on…

1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Read:** 1 Timothy 3:14-16

1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_v.15

2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_v.15

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 **Small Group**

**Reflection Questions**

(Please take time to ponder and pencil in

to prep for this week’s small group session.)

***WELCOME BACK TO SMALL GROUPS!!!***

*\*Purpose: To build our FAITH and our FRIENDSHIPS.*

*\*Rules groups live by:*

*1) Contribution: show up prepped up!*

*2) Confidentiality: what’s shared in the group, stays in the group!*

*3) Culture: be honest with self and speak the truth in love to others!*

*\*Take time to catch up on life since Thanksgiving break…*

*1)What was your holiday HIGHLIGHT?*

*2) What was your holiday LOWLIGHT?*

*\*This week we took time to review our 2023 Word of the Year CHRUCH. Why do you go to church? Why do you think church should be a priority in life?*

*\*Take a guess: what do you think the 2024 Word of the Year will be?*

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