

TAKING IT HOME

1. Read **1 Peter 2:9-12**. What phrases are used to describe the community of believers?

How would you paraphrase **vv. 11-12** in your own words?

How would you want to apply this to your life?

2. Looking back at this week's sermon and study, what is most important for you to remember? Explain why.

Your prayer requests:

APPRECIATE WHAT WE'RE BUILDING

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

THE CHURCH IS LIKE A BUILDING

THE CHURCH NEEDS SOMEONE TO LAY THE FOUNDATION

1 Corinthians 3:9-10a

THE CHURCH NEEDS A CONSTRUCTION CREW

1 Corinthians 3:10b-17

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of November 6, 2011

MY STORY

1. Look back at your notes from this Sunday's teaching. Was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question?

2. In **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**, Paul says that the community of believers are God's temple, sacred, and that God's Spirit lives in them as a community. In what ways have you experienced God's presence in a Christian community (e.g., worship service, small group, retreat, etc.)?

3. God's church is a gift He has given the world. It's a community where people experience God's presence. What most encourages you about this?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Another image the Bible uses to represent the community of believers is a vineyard. In the parable that Jesus told in **Matthew 21:33-46**, the landowner represented God, the vineyard represented His community of believers, the farmers/tenants represented the leaders whom God entrusted to care for His people, and the servants represented God's prophets. When the landowner sent his servants to get the fruit from the vineyard, what happened? (vv. 33-39)

What is the result of the tenant's bad behavior? (vv. 40-43)

What was Jesus saying about the importance of church leadership in this parable? How can you be praying for your church leaders?

2. The vineyard imagery in this passage comes from **Isaiah 5:1-7**. Read that passage, and jot down a few things that stick out to you about this passage. If you feel comfortable, share these observations with your group.

Once again, the vineyard is a representation of God's chosen people. What happens when God doesn't find good fruit there?

In this passage, what is the fruit God is looking for? What does this mean practically?