



Study #1

A Vision for Healthy Churches

Ice Breaker:

1. If you had an opportunity to move to a new area or city, which would you choose to call home?

Discussion Starter:

2. Imagine that you just moved to a new town and you're looking for a new church. What would be at the top of your list of the most important things you look for in a church?

Watch Video @ www.vimeo.com/33926000 and fill in the blanks.

- Both the service and the congregation are important in _____ the significance of the church.
- As Christians, what we can be confident of is the _____ of the gospel.
- God is showing the fullness of His character through the local _____.
- There has been a _____ of church just to evangelism.
- A personal relationship with Jesus Christ can never be _____.

At the 10:01 mark stop the video and answer the following questions:

Mark Dever shared that there are myriads of reasons people attend church and that each of these people have things they desire to receive from their time in church.

3. Why do you come to church? How does your answer affect what you put into it? And what you get out of it?

Watch Video till the 13:25 mark.

- The most important aspect of a church is whether it _____ the gospel.
 - A healthy church _____ what God is like.
4. Read Isaiah 6:1-7. What does this passage reveal about God's character?

In the interview, Mark Dever said that a healthy church is one that reflects the character of God, and the way a church becomes healthier is by listening to and obeying God's word.

5. In what ways have you seen a church reflect the character of God? How did this reflection impact you?

Watch Video till the 22:06 mark.

- Expository preaching is _____ and _____ God's word to God's people.
6. This section of the interview focused in on the subject of preaching. In what ways has the preaching in your church impacted your life?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

7. In view of these verses, how do you respond to someone who says preaching isn't important for the church and that we shouldn't focus so much on it?

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5

8. What challenges will Timothy face in his preaching ministry?
9. How might these same things tempt preachers not to preach expositionally today?
10. Is this type of preaching and hearing happening today? If so, give some examples.

Watch Video to its conclusion.

- God's word has always _____ God's people.
- A church that realizes that God has spoken will make preaching _____.
- Church members should come _____.

11. Discuss some challenges that hinder people from listening well to sermons?

12. How do you listen to sermons? What are some helpful strategies to getting the most from a sermon?

Through personal study and the video interview we learned that the two most important aspects of a healthy church are those that reveal the character of God and bring the truth of God's word to his people.

13. In light of the statement above, what can the church do to fulfill this calling? In what ways are you as an individual called to make this reality true in the church?