



Pastor Paul Gilbert :: April 21, 2013

**ICEBREAKER:** Have people in the group share about a time when there was a transition in leadership at their work, job, or other organization that they were a part of. What went well? What didn't? Why?

**Introduction:** In our first message of this series, we are talking about five characteristics that a church community needs to embody to be both faithful in upholding the truth of the gospel as well to be faithful in spreading the message of the gospel.

### 1. Four Oaks is Called to Be a Gospel Unifying Community – Acts 2: 46-47

Discussion:

- a. In what ways is it helpful to think about the way certain churches and ministries are different from each other? When is it unhelpful?
- b. How do you think it impacts non-believers in terms of the way Christian churches and ministries speak about and treat each other?

### 2. Four Oaks is Called to Be a Lay-Launching Community – I Peter 2: 9

Discussion:

- a. Who or what kinds of Christians are “a royal priesthood?”
- b. How does the way you answer this question impact how you view ministry, church, and evangelism?

### 3. Four Oaks is Called to Be a Servant Community – Jeremiah 29: 4-7

Discussion:

- a. What role can serving our city play in proclaiming the gospel?  
Why can't serving be separated from proclaiming?
- b. Talk about a time when serving someone allowed you the opportunity to share the gospel with them.

**4. Four Oaks is Called to Be a Prophetic Community – I Thes. 2: 9**

Discussion:

- a. What is wrong with the statement, “Share the gospel at all times; use words when necessary.”
- b. Who is someone that God has given you opportunity to build a relationship with that you need to move forward with in sharing the gospel?

**5. Four Oaks is Called to Be a Contrast Community – I Thes. 4: 2-8**

Discussion:

- a. Why is holiness and obedience to the gospel a necessary part of sharing the gospel?
- b. What is an area of your life (sin) that you believe is hindering your gospel witness?

**6. Four Oaks is Called to Be a Suffering Community – Col. 1: 24**

Discussion:

What opportunity has God given you through suffering to demonstrate to others His faithfulness and goodness to you?