EXLECTIO SMALL GROUP GUIDE

I Will Build My Church: Our Work, Focus, and Future in Jesus

Jeremy Kuehn • November 1, 2026

Scripture: Matthew 16:18

Small Group Guide

I Will Build My Church: Our Work, Focus, and Future in Jesus

Main Idea: The church belongs to Jesus, who builds through faithful people and secures its future, so our unity and mission must remain focused on him.

Primary Scripture: Matthew 16:18

Opening

As we mark fifty years of ministry in Bella Vista, this sermon points beyond any building, leader, or generation to Jesus, who said, “I will build my church.” We’ll reflect on how people have faithfully served across generations, why the church belongs to Jesus, and how his faithfulness gives us confidence about the future.

- What is a community, group, or tradition you’re grateful to have been part of?
- What helps a group stay focused on what matters most?

Read

Read Matthew 16:18 together.

Observe

- In Matthew 16:18, what does Jesus say he will do, and what does he say will not conquer his church?
- What examples did the sermon give of people serving across generations and making room for the church's mission to continue?

Understand

- What does it mean for the church to belong to Jesus rather than to a pastor, its members, or one generation?
- How does the promise that Jesus is building his church shape the sermon's view of the church's security and future?

Apply

- Where might your priorities or attention need to come back into alignment with Jesus and the work of his church?
- What is one way you could help someone else flourish in faith or take part in serving others?
- What concrete next step will you take this week to support the church's mission or encourage someone who serves?

This Week

Choose one concrete act this week that supports the church's mission or encourages someone serving in it, and follow through.

Prayer

Thank Jesus for building his church through faithful people across generations. Ask him to keep your group united in him, focused on his mission, and confident in his care for the future.

Leader Note

Make room to honor past and present faithfulness without implying that everyone must share the same church history or have the same role. Invite participation without pressuring anyone to disclose more than they wish.