



Group Guide

The Church Will Not Fail

July 6, 2025

Main Passage: Matthew 16:18; Acts 5:33-39; Romans 8:31-39

Theological Theme

It doesn't matter who opposes God's people because God is for us.
His plans never fail, and neither will His church.

Introduction

- ❓ How would you describe our culture's relationship with the church?
- ❓ Are you worried about the future of the global church? Why or why not?

1. God Is for Us (Romans 8:31-39)

In this passage, Paul presented an argument that God is for us. What a beautiful and humbling thought! When we are found in Jesus, God is for us. Paul backed this idea up with some pretty compelling evidence: God didn't even hold back His own Son for our sake. God sent Jesus so He could die on the cross for our sins. We are so familiar with this truth in the church that we sometimes fail to marvel at how truly wonderful it is. God loves us so much that He sent His only Son to die for undeserving sinners (Romans 5:8). This was all so our sins could be forgiven and we could live in relationship with Him forever. God is for us, indeed!

- ❓ What do you think it means that "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (v. 31b, NIV)?
- ❓ What can we learn about the Lord from this passage?
- ❓ Application: How does this passage give you hope as you think about the future of the church in our country and world?

2. The Church Won't Fail (Acts 5:33-39)

Our passage in Acts 5 looks in on a scene in the Sanhedrin, "the full council of the Israelites" (v. 21). At this point in Acts, the Christian body of believers was thriving. The Holy Spirit had arrived as promised, His presence fueled the apostles' boldness in teaching, and multitudes of men and women were being saved (Acts 5:14).

- ❓ What argument did Gamaliel make in these verses? What was the response?
- ❓ What can we learn about God's plans from this passage?
- ❓ Application: Where do you turn for reminders and confidence in God's faithfulness to His promises and plans?

3. The Rock (Matthew 16:18)

Jesus's proclamation here was in response to Peter declaring Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Scholars don't all agree on what, exactly, Jesus meant by the word "rock"⁷ here—whether it referred to Peter's confession or Peter himself—but Scripture makes clear elsewhere that Jesus Himself is the "rock" on which the church is built. He is the foundational cornerstone the builders rejected (Matthew 21:42; Ephesians 2:20).

- ❓ What did Jesus mean when He said "the gates of Hades will not overpower" the church?
- ❓ What does this verse teach us about God's plan for the church?
- ❓ Application: How does this verse give us hope for the future of the church?

Conclusion

- ❓ What are some moments from your life when you felt like circumstances were bleak, but God triumphed or provided for you in a way you couldn't for yourself?
- ❓ How does the idea of God being for the church enhance our perspective on why it is important for individual believers to be joined with the church?
- ❓ How does today's study encourage you to tell others the good news of Jesus?