
WEEK 5

WHY IS THE CHURCH IMPORTANT?

OBJECTIVE

Help your group understand that we all crave to belong—it's how God created us. And He started the Church and promised to build the church so that each as followers of Christ have a place to belong, be encouraged and be in relationship with others.

CHECKLIST

- Pray over each group member by name.
- Send out mid-week text to check in with Small Group members.
- Your Week 9 Serve Experience should be chosen by this week. Start giving group members details of time, locations, what to wear and what you will be doing.
- Invite group members to bring any questions from last week's topic.
- Remind group members of upcoming Next Steps opportunities (Baptism, Connect, etc.).
- Select someone to share their story next week.

SMALL GROUP

SOCIAL: 10 MINUTES

Welcome the group and create connections for group members to one another.

ICEBREAKER: 5 MINUTES

"If you were to choose a club, team or a group of people to belong to, who would it be and why?"

STORY: 3 MINUTES

At least a few days in advance, ask one person from the group to share their story of what their life was like before Jesus and when they made the decision to follow Jesus. (Be sure to hold them to a 3-minute limit!)

INTRODUCTION: 5 MINUTES

Remind attendees of the purpose of this group and the importance of their (and your) commitment to it. Celebrate any milestones or next steps of individuals in the group.

Allow participants to share their thoughts on the previous week's devotional and encourage them to ask any questions they had written down regarding last week's topic.

"How did you see God move through you this week through your devotions?"

"What questions did you write down?"

VIDEO: 15 MINUTES

Set up and prepare for this week's video teaching.

"We are learning today why the Church is important. There are many reasons that I think we could answer this question, so let's lean in and learn together what God's Word says."

READ: 2 MINUTES

Open your Bibles together and read through this week's passage. Be sure that everyone is able to find the book, chapter and verses and encourage group members to take turns reading.

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:18

DISCUSSION: 30 MINUTES

Lead the group through the reflection questions, encouraging them to even ask their own questions. (This is not the time for the leader to talk, but for participants to engage with each other. Rule of thumb: you talk 30% of the time, they talk 70% of the time.) Be sure that no one or two people dominate the conversation, but you're facilitating and directing the participation of everyone.

QUESTION 1

We gather as a church to EXPERIENCE the presence of God.

Share how you've experienced His presence when gathering together.

QUESTION 2

We gather to EDIFY and to BUILD UP the faith of believers.

When you hear that you have a part to play in the church, you've been given gifts, we submit to one another. How have you used your gifts in the church to build up others? If you aren't currently, what are ways you'd like to take the step to play a part?

QUESTION 3

We gather to be EQUIPPED to take the Gospel beyond the walls of the church.

How do you feel you've been equipped to go into the world and spread the Gospel? What are ways you'd like to be better equipped?

QUESTION 4

We gather for EVANGELISM.

When we gather as believers, everything we do is with the unbeliever in mind knowing that the unchurched, the lost the ones who don't know Jesus yet, might be in the room with us. If this is true, then in what ways do you live out your faith in every room to point people to Jesus? What adjustments in your life might you need to make if you say your life isn't pointing people to Jesus?

QUESTIONS 5

We gather for PERSEVERANCE.

We gather as a local church, both on Sundays and in small groups to exhort one another toward godliness. How has being a part of this group been an encouragement to you? What about gathering consistently in church on Sunday has helped you feel encouraged?

PRAYER: 15 MINUTES

Split into groups of two and pray.

Prayer Focus: Spend time with one another encouraging each other in the ways you've seen God working in that person's life so far through this group.

NEXT STEPS: 5 MINUTES

Introduce the materials and encourage members to engage in their weekly devotions for the coming week. Discuss any upcoming events or opportunities for them to take next steps (attending worship experiences, baptism, Rock City Connect, serving beyond our walls).

- Encourage group members to sign up for water baptism and be sure to invite your group to show up for anyone in your group who will be baptized (rockcitychurch.tv/baptism).
- Encourage group members to learn how they can play a part and use their gifts in the church by attending the next Rock City Connect (rockcitychurch.tv/connect). You can also attend Connect together as a group!