

Why Should I Go To Church

Connect Group Guide - 1.18.26

Opening Prayer

Icebreaker

Share one positive memory you have from being part of a church community. What made that moment special?

Key Scripture

• Romans 6:1-2, Titus 2:11-12

Key Takeaways

- **The Church is a Relationship, Not a Rule** - Attendance reveals the state of our relationship with Christ and His bride.
- **The Church is His Body** - We don't just visit church; we belong to a body of believers 24/7.
- **Sporadic Attendance Reveals Divided Affection** - Drifting from God rarely starts with rebellion but with excuses and replacement.
- **What We Run To Reveals What We Love Most** - We don't miss what we love; we make room for it.
- **Jesus Wants Affection, Not Just Attendance** - We can be busy for God yet distant from God.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. Pastor Mike said, "You can't love Jesus deeply and avoid the things He loves passionately." How does this challenge your current view of church involvement?
2. What's the difference between viewing church as "an event to attend" versus "a body to belong to"? How does this shift in perspective change things?
3. The message mentioned that church used to revolve around life rather than life revolving around church. What cultural shifts have contributed to this change? How have you experienced this personally?

Personal Reflection

4. Pastor Mike shared his story about prioritizing sports over academics and later regretting it. What are some things you've prioritized that, looking back, took time away from what really mattered?
5. Read Hebrews 10:25. The writer warns against the "habit" of not meeting together. What habits or patterns in your life either support or hinder consistent church involvement?
6. "Distance from God is rarely intentional, but it's always detectable." What are some early warning signs that someone (or you) might be drifting from God and His church?

Going Deeper

7. In Revelation 2, Jesus rebukes a church for having "activity without intimacy, structure without surrender, and presence without passion." Can you relate to this? When have you felt busy for God but distant from God?
8. Pastor Mike said, "What we run to reveals what we love most." If someone looked at your calendar and bank account, what would they say you love most?
9. The sermon describes the church as the "bride of Christ." How does understanding the church as Christ's beloved bride change how we should treat it and participate in it?

Application

10. What practical steps can you take this week to shift from viewing church as an event to experiencing it as belonging to a body?
11. Beyond Sunday morning, how can you be "the church" throughout your week at work, school, or in your community?
12. Who in your life needs an invitation to belong to this church family? How can you extend that invitation this week?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to implement this week:

13. **Daily Connection:** Reach out to one church member each day this week via text, call, or coffee to build relationship beyond Sunday.
14. **Calendar Audit:** Review your schedule for the next month. Are you making room for what you say you love? Make necessary adjustments.
15. **Serve Intentionally:** Sign up for one serving opportunity you haven't tried before.
16. **Worship Beyond Sunday:** Set a daily reminder to pause and worship God wherever you are—work, home, car, etc.

Leader Notes

- **Be Vulnerable:** As the leader, be willing to share your own struggles with grace and sin. This isn't about judgment but honest transformation.
- **Create Safety:** This topic can bring up guilt and shame. Emphasize that conviction from the Holy Spirit is different from condemnation—God convicts to restore, not to destroy.
- **Avoid Legalism:** While challenging abuse of grace, be careful not to swing to legalism. The goal is heart transformation through love of Jesus, not rule-keeping.
- **Follow Up:** This is a heavy topic. Check in with group members during the week, especially those who seemed particularly convicted or troubled.

Prayer Requests & Closing