



Paradigm Discipleship Lesson

The purpose of this resource is to provide some guidance for you as you encourage your disciple to develop a strong devotional relationship with God.

We encourage you to do your own study, using this resource as a guide, to develop a learning experience for you and your disciple that will help you both move deeper in your understanding and experience of interacting with a God who desires a deep, intimate relationship with you.

The Church - Part 1- God's People Gathered Together

GOAL: For you and your disciple to better understand what the Bible teaches about the Church and what a Church does.

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever gone to church?
- How would you describe the church?
- What is the purpose of church?
- Who is the church for?

DEFINITION: Where does the word CHURCH come from? Comes from the Greek word *ekklesia* meaning assembly or gathering.

A church is not only a group of people who believe the same gospel and live distinctly Spirit-led lives. It is more specifically a group of people who come together regularly in order to worship God and love/serve one another.

Study Question: How does the Bible describe the Church?

1. Members of a Body - 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Eph. 1:22-23, 4:15-16, Colossians 1:15-20
2. People of God - Eph. 2:19-22, 1 Peter 2:9-10, Romans 9:25-26
3. Flock of God - John 10:11-16, 1 Peter 5:1-4

How do these images help us better understand the church?

Summary: Church is membership to a Family, a Body, a People - not to a club or gym - we are not paying and "going" to consume - but committed to serve, love, and encourage. We don't go to church, we are part of a church.

QUESTION: What is not "church"? Watching a service online, Christian Challenge, Bible Study with friends.

READ Acts 2:42-47 - What does the first Church do together? What do they prioritize?

- Devoted themselves to the teachings about God, fellowship/gathering, Lord's Supper/Communion, and Prayers.
- Is Christian Challenge a church? By no means!

STUDY QUESTION: What does the Church Do?

- Hebrews 10:24-25, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, 2 Corinthians 5:20

REFLECTION: How has scripture changed the way you think about the Church? What is your biggest take away this week about the Church?

HOMEWORK: This coming Sunday, go to church and make a list of what the church did during the service. Did it look like what was described in scripture?

RESOURCES

- Rediscover Church by Jonathan Leeman (148 pages)
- What is the Church? - Knowing Faith Podcast (40 min)

THE CHURCH - Part 2 lesson will go into what it looks like to be involved in a local church and why that is important.