

## Session 7—Church: Christian Community

- BEGIN BY PRAYING TOGETHER
- LIST A HIGHLIGHT FROM LAST WEEK & CHALLENGE YOU ARE FACING

Highlight

Challenge


- ARE YOU STAYING CONSISTENT WITH YOUR DAILY DEVOTIONS?
- HAVE YOU BEEN PRAYING FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR NAME LIST?
- DID YOU SHARE THE BRIDGE AND EXPLAIN IT TO ANYONE? WHO?
- HAVE SOMEONE SHARE THE 3 CIRCLES, DID THEY MISS ANYTHING?



When you become a Christian, you are a member of God's family. God is your heavenly Father, and all Christians are like brothers and sisters of the same family, "...*this household is the church of the living God...*" (1 Timothy 3:15). The "church" is not a building, and the "church" is not a place of worship, but it is a body (a connected gathering) of believers in a family-like unit.

- 1) ***"You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds."*** (1 Peter 3:8, LB)

How should we think of our other believers?

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- 2) ***Hebrews 10:24–25 (NLT) Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. <sup>25</sup> And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.***

Why is it important to meet together as the church?

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- 3) Can Christians today not attend church?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ It Depends

Do you have difficulty attending church?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ It Depends

### 4) Why should you attend church?

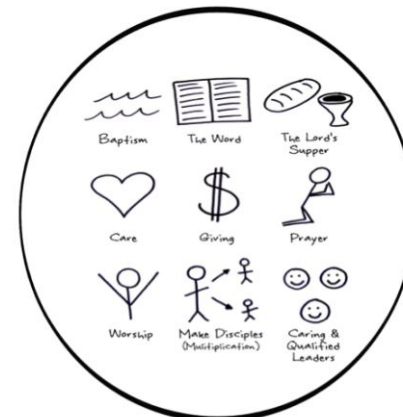
- A. Because we need worship, fellowship, teaching, ministry and the Holy Spirit's power.
- B. Because this is God's command. "And let us not \_\_\_\_\_ our meeting together, as some people do, but \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ each other, especially now that the day of his \_\_\_\_\_ again is drawing near." (Hebrews 10:25)
- C. To avoid deviating from the truth of the Bible.
- D. Because there are mature Christians in church to help you.

### 5) 9 PRACTICES OF CHURCH

**A) Acts 2:41–47 (NLT) Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. <sup>42</sup> All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>44</sup> And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. <sup>46</sup> They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—<sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.**

Find and circle each practice listed below in the above passage:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptism             | <input type="checkbox"/> Learn the Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> Lord's Supper     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care for each other | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving          | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship             | <input type="checkbox"/> Make Disciples  | <input type="checkbox"/> Qualified Leaders |



### Who is your church?

The question is not, "Where do you go to church?" but rather, "Who is your church?" Who are the people with whom you are being the church?



We practice these 9 things as we grow in our faith together. This is what the church is supposed to do. You have already learned about some of these in previous Sessions: You have learned how to care for each other. In Session 2 Baptism was explained, in Session 3 Prayer, Session 4 Bible Study, and in Sessions 1 & 2 you were taught how to share your faith & Make Disciples.

But there are 3 practices that may need further explanation:

UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL GIVING

- 6) **2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NLT)** *“Remember this -- a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully.”*

What does the Bible teach about our financial giving?

UNDERSTANDING THE LORD'S SUPPER

- 7) **1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NLT)** *For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread<sup>24</sup> and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.”<sup>25</sup> In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it.”<sup>26</sup> For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again.*

What does the bread and the wine mean in the Lord's Supper?

What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?

When and where can you share the Lord's Supper with other Christians?

UNDERSTANDING QUALIFIED LEADERS: God has provided order in the church by equipping leaders to lead His people.

- 8) **Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)** *Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.*

What does this passage say about the leaders, and your response to them?



ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT TIME:

1. Continue your Daily Devotions.
2. Continue to pray for those on your Name List and share your Faith Story and THE 3 Circles whenever you have an opportunity.
3. Plan a small group meeting with some friends so that you can practice being the church.
4. Begin thinking about who you could lead through this study.



**Hebrews 10:24–25 (NLT)** *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

- CLOSE IN PRAYER TOGETHER