

Foundations

Week Five: My Church, My Family, My Mission

Connect Group Guide - 10.19.25

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when someone "wouldn't let you go" during a difficult season. How did that impact you?

Key Scripture References

- **Ephesians 4:11-16** - Equipping the saints for service
- **Ephesians 5:25-27** - Christ's love for the church
- **1 Corinthians 12:27** - Each person as part of the body
- **Matthew 6:33** - Seeking first the kingdom

Main Takeaways

1. The Church Needs You, But You Need the Church More

- We're not doing God a favor when we serve; we're fulfilling our purpose
- The church is the bride of Christ, and Jesus died for her

2. Church is Family, Not an Event

- It's not something we consume; it's something we contribute to
- It's not a place we attend; it's who we are

3. Every Body Part Has a Purpose

- When one part sits still, the whole body struggles
- Growth requires participation, not just attendance

4. Ownership Means Sacrifice

- Growth doesn't come from comfort; it comes from commitment
- We value the mission more than our preferences

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding the Bride (15 minutes)

1. **Pastor Mike said, "You need this house more than this house needs you."**
 - How does this statement challenge your perspective on church involvement?
2. **Read Ephesians 5:25-27 together.**
 - What does it mean that Jesus calls the church His bride?
 - How should this truth change how we view and treat the church?
3. **The message emphasized that Jesus didn't die for a logo or organization—He died for people.**
 - How does this distinction affect your understanding of what church really is?

Section 2: The Body Working Together (15 minutes)

4. **Pastor Mike used the baseball analogy—nine positions, but only six players.**
 - Where have you seen the church struggle because "part of the body didn't show up"? Be honest but gracious.
5. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:27 together.**
 - What specific role do you believe God has called you to play in the body? If you're unsure, what steps can you take to discover it?
6. **"You don't just watch God move. You join Him in the movement."**
 - What's the difference between being a spectator and being a participant in God's work?

Section 3: Ownership and Sacrifice (15 minutes)

7. **The message contrasted these questions:** What do I get out of church?" vs. "How can I help build the church?"
 - Which question have you been asking more often? What would change if you shifted your perspective?

8. "Your schedule should not dictate church. Church should dictate your schedule."

- This is a challenging statement. What are the biggest obstacles preventing you from prioritizing church involvement?
- How can this group support you?

9. Pastor Mike shared that the early church valued the mission more than their preferences.

- What preferences might God be asking you to surrender for the sake of the kingdom?

Section 4: Moving Forward Together (15 minutes)

10. The message mentioned that Seekers Point is moving to two services.

- How do transitions like this reveal what we truly value? What opportunities does this create?

11. "When ownership multiplies, the kingdom multiplies."

- What would it look like for you personally to multiply ownership in your church family?

12. The powerful illustration showed people linking arms saying, "I'm not letting you go."

- Who in this group or church needs you to say that to them right now? Who do you need to hear that from?

Personal Reflection (5 minutes)

Take a few moments of silence for each person to consider:

- **Am I contributing or just consuming?**
- **What is God specifically asking me to do?**
- **What sacrifice is He calling me to make?**

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE action step

LEVEL 1 - First Steps:

- Attend church this Sunday with the mindset of serving, not just receiving
- Identify one area where you could volunteer (greeting, setup, cleanup, etc.)
- Invite someone to attend church with you

LEVEL 2 - Growing Commitment:

- Contact a ministry leader about serving regularly
- Adjust your schedule to prioritize church attendance and service
- Recruit a friend to serve alongside you in a ministry area

LEVEL 3 - Full Ownership:

- Commit to serving in both services when the transition happens
- Take ownership of a specific ministry need
- Mentor someone new in their journey of church involvement
- Pray daily for the church, its leadership, and upcoming transition

Group Accountability

Share your chosen action step with at least one other person in the group. Exchange contact information and commit to checking in with each other this week.

Leader Notes

- **Be Vulnerable:** Share your own struggles with commitment and sacrifice
- **Celebrate Small Steps:** Not everyone will be ready for "Level 3" commitment—affirm all movement toward ownership
- **Address Concerns:** Some may feel overwhelmed by the call to serve. Remind them that serving flows from love, not obligation
- **Follow Up:** Check in with group members during the week about their commitments
- **Keep Focus:** The goal isn't guilt—it's helping people discover the joy and purpose found in serving Christ's bride