

## Pray Together

**Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

## Read Together

Church leaders really like to talk about the importance of church attendance. And if we're honest, sometimes that message can sound very self-serving or guilt-inducing. That's not the heart of the Scripture's prescription for faithful, committed church attendance. Scripture always describes faithful, committed church attendance as a healthy and helpful discipline for every growing disciple of Christ.

Sometimes, it feels like positions of practical theology are at odds with one another. In an article for the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Pastor Daryl Crouch highlights this struggle for faithful, committed church attendance.

*[It] is an issue of how the individual Christian flourishes. How will we live faithful, Spirit-filled, Christ-centered lives without the church? How will we abide in Christ and bear lasting fruit? How will we live on mission for the glory of God? How will we show and tell the gospel to a world that waits for hope? How will we end well?*

*The follower of Christ needs the church.*

*Yet many who call Jesus "Lord" are not so sure. We've heard that the church is not a building. That's true; the church is a kindred people committed to one another for the advancement of the gospel. The misguided implication, however, is that the regular meeting of committed Christians in a particular place and a specific time is of secondary importance— a good option, but an option nonetheless.*

Is the regular gathering of Christians in a church service only 'an option' among many good things? Is faithful church attendance an essential discipline for growing disciples or a helpful, but non-essential practice? Why do some people care so much and why are others so indifferent?

Are we truly better together when we're side by side as an active part of a Christ-centered congregation?

## Discuss Together

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- Why do you attend church? Share a passage of Scripture that supports your reason.
- What does "regular church attendance" look like for you? Share how you maintain the discipline of regular church attendance. What factors/circumstances regularly wage war against this discipline? Some of those cannot be controlled; others can. Brainstorm some ways to prepare for and take action against those distractors.



- Respond to the following questions that some Christians may sincerely ask.
  - *"If we are in Christ, and we love God, why should attending a church meeting every week be a priority?"*
  - *"If the church will survive without us, why does it matter?"*
  - *"If we are living moral lives and showing respect for Christian values, what is the big deal?"*
  - *"If we are practicing other spiritual disciplines, why is the church meeting necessary?"*
- Why does Christian community matter? What is your unique contribution to the community of faith at Warren? Encourage one another. Invite members of your Life Group to share with others how they see God using them.
- Read the following passages of Scripture. Discuss what they say about togetherness in the body of Christ.
  - Psalm 133
  - 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
  - Philippians 2:1-4
  - Hebrews 10:19-25
- We are better when we are together. There are no New Testament stories of growing disciples who grew in isolation. Share a testimony of how God used you to help another disciple grow in Christ. Share a testimony of how God used another disciple to help you grow in Christ.

## How I must obey Christ...

- Examine yourself. As a result of this study, identify a specific area in which you need to obey Christ this week.
- How do you specifically need to obey Christ in this area this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has He proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

## Pray Together

Read and pray through Hebrews 10:24-25.

