Relating to the Church – Discussion Guide
Sermon -Nov 22, 2026



Opening: How Do You Relate to the Church?
The church wasn't created to serve us. It is God's chosen vehicle to expand His Kingdom by helping people find and follow Jesus. We aren't consumers of the church we are contributors.

We are the church.
Read: Matthew 20:28 and Matthew 16:16–18

1. Be honest: do you tend to relate to church mainly as a place to *get* something? What does that look like for you?
2. Jesus says the gates of Hades will not stand against His church. What changes when we see the church as advancing on offense instead of holding on defense?

1. Be Here (Be Present)
You can't become a fully devoted follower of Christ with a habit of not meeting together. Christ loves His bride, the church, and as we grow, our love for her grows too.
Read: Hebrews 10:25

1. What habits or priorities most often keep you, or people you know, from gathering with God's people each week?
2. How does being present make it possible to "encourage one another"? Share a time someone's presence encouraged you.

2. Get in a Life Group
We grow better when we grow together. Life Groups are how we grow closer as the church grows larger.
Read: Matthew 18:20

1. How has studying Scripture with others helped you see something you would have missed on your own?
2. What makes a group a place where real, deep relationships can form? What can you do to help that happen?

3. Find a Place to Serve
A disassembled bike is just a pile of parts. Connected, it can go places. The Holy Spirit gives each of us gifts to help the church carry out its mission.
Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12–27, 1 Peter 4:10 and Ephesians 4:15–16

1. Paul says no part of the body can say "I don't need you." Which parts of the church do you tend to overlook, and why are they indispensable?
2. What gifts has God given you? Where are you using them now, or where could you start?

Next Step: Let's Be the Church
Read together: 1 Corinthians 12:27, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

1. Of the three invitations (be here, get in a Life Group, find a place to serve), which one is your next step this week?
2. Close by praying for one another, that each person would find and use their place in the body.